

Ample scope for Paisley in Anglo-Irish study

From Christopher Thomas, Dublin

The Anglo-Irish joint studies have pointed to three fundamental issues that affect relations between Britain and Ireland: the republic's constitutional claim over Northern Ireland, Britain's constitutional guarantee to Ulster, and the complex relationship between the two states throughout the island.

The report of the studies, published simultaneously in Dublin and Westminster yesterday, contains none of the horrors that the Rev Ian Paisley has been predicting, but there is ample scope for him to pursue and extend his increasingly bizarre campaign against Britain's "betrayal".

The report is the result of 10 months of work by officials from Dublin and Westminster. Its tone is moderate but it is refreshingly frank.

Surprisingly, the Irish side agreed that the removal of Britain's constitutional guarantee to Northern Ireland would not bring about a more tolerant attitude among Northern Unionists, but rather would have the reverse effect, presumably because it would heighten insecurity.

The 52-page report is tedious in places. The longest section is devoted to the rights of citizens in each other's country.

Its most important idea was the establishment of an inter-governmental council, which is happening, and it is clear that the Irish side met strong resistance to their wish for an inter-parliamentary body comprising elected representatives from Belfast, Dublin and London.

It said: "In the British view this should be further considered in the light of experience and of opinions which may over time be expressed by members of either or both of the two national parliaments. In the meantime efforts should be made to broaden the activities and composition of the existing Anglo-Irish parliamentary group."

The Irish view was that the parliamentary group could become a part of the new inter-governmental council. It mooted the idea of an Anglo-Irish parliamentary committee, as a first step towards a broader parliamentary body, with purely advisory and consultative functions.

The report is laced with many other fruits of the bureaucratic idea machine such as the sharing of gas and electricity, the secondment of officials between London and Dublin, a single institution for administering policy on the arts throughout Ireland, the establishment of contacts between the republic and the Open University.

A part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment who was shot in Co Fermanagh on Monday died in hospital yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Mr Cecil Graham, aged 29, was hit by 16 bullets after leaving his father-in-law's home in Lisnakea, where he had been visiting his wife and baby. The Provisional IRA claimed responsibility.

Anglo-Irish Joint Studies (Cmd 8414, Stationery Office; £3.05).

Stronger role for Chief of Staff

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Defence, is trying to strengthen the position of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) at his ministry. A number of "evolutionary changes" are being worked on, he said yesterday.

The minister said his aides were, however, at pains to emphasise that the authority of the Chief of Defence Staff will remain undiminished.

At present the chief's opinions on defence issues are communicated to ministers by the CDS, at present Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin.

Sources indicate, though, that in future he will be encouraged to express his opinion separately so that the ministers can take an overall view, rather than be influenced simply by the views of the individual Services.

A number of defence secretaries have tried in the past to boost the power of the CDS, as part of their ambition to dilute the influence of single-service rivalry on big issues. Mr Nott, however, has the advantage of having already done away with the single-service ministers, and despite reassurances that another review of how best moves as the thin end of yet another wedge.

Mr Nott referred to his plans while outlining other changes to the House of Commons defence committee, which is studying defence procurement.

A study of how financial control procedures should be modified had been completed.



'The Times' helped to pinpoint disease

Mrs Christine English, aged 37, a divorced mother of two, of Colchester, Essex, walked free from Norwich Crown Court on Tuesday because Mr David Cooper, her solicitor, was a reader of *The Times*.

Mrs English, who pleaded not guilty to the murder of Mr Barry Kitson, her lover, but guilty of manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, submitted that she was suffering from premenstrual tension when she ran him down with her car. She was conditionally discharged for a year.

"Of all the newspapers since taking interest in the case, it was *The Times* we had to thank the most," Mr Cooper said last night. "He had been reading an article in the newspaper about premenstrual tension and suddenly remembered that as he was taking the statements from Mrs English."

He checked with her periodic cycle and found that the offence had been committed just before the onset of a period.

Dr Katrina Dalton, a Harley Street specialist who gave evidence in defence, said that premenstrual syndrome, a hormonal disease which would affect the mind, would make the mind irritable and aggressive with a lack of self-control.

It was her opinion that Mrs English was suffering from those effects at the time.

Mrs English was not available last night for comment.

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CONCESSION COST

The BBC would lose £170m a year in revenue if pensioners were given free television licences, Mr Alan Hart, controller BBC 1, told pensioners' representatives yesterday.

Science report Starlight clue to Neptune's moons

By the Staff of "Nature"

Astronomical observations of the distant planet Neptune passing in front of an even more distant star seem to suggest that the planet has a previously undetected ring. Only two other moons of this planet are known: Triton, discovered in 1846 and a little bigger than our own Moon; and Nereid, 150 miles across and discovered in 1949.

The new moon was discovered by a team which was searching for rings around Neptune. Saturn, once thought to be the only planet in the solar system with rings around it, must now be classed with Jupiter and Uranus, faint rings around which were discovered recently, and since all four big planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune (counting from the Sun outwards) are rather similar, being big and gaseous, it was reasonable to guess that Neptune might have a ring too.

So Harold J. Reitsema and colleagues at the University of Arizona made use of a lucky coincidence earlier this year: that Neptune, in its slow motion around the solar system, was going to pass across our line of sight to a particularly bright star. Stars are so far away that they appear pointlike to us, and if one passed behind a ring of Neptune it would briefly disappear. In fact it would disappear twice, as its straight path behind the circular ring would cross the ring twice.

In the event, the star did disappear, but only once. This suggests that the star just grazed past the edge of a ring, or was briefly covered by a moon. Neither of the known moons of Neptune was in the right place at the time, and a grazing path would have caused a drawn-out disappearance (whereas the disappearance was brief); so the only likely conclusion must be that there is a third moon around Neptune.

It is likely that in a few years to check this chance observation. Voyager 2, the American spacecraft now sailing away from Saturn, is due first at Uranus and will reach Neptune on August 24, 1989. Then, if Voyager 2 is to find a new moon, it should see it all in pictures.

Source: *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society* (vol 13, no 3, 6221) 1981. © Nature Times News Service (1981).

Crosby by-election

Benn stands in for the moderates

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Liverpool

Mr Wedgwood Benn has been honoured with a double speaking engagement in the Crosby by-election campaign next week. It was disclosed yesterday that Mr John Bachehouse, prospective Labour candidate for the November 26 contest, had signally failed to invite any of the party's prominent moderates to speak on his behalf.

Apart from Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, who is to appear in Crosby two days before polling, the only other Shadow Cabinet member listed to address public meetings is Mr Benn.

Mr Bachehouse, aged 28 and a mathematics teacher at a local comprehensive school, has made no secret of his support for the policies advocated by Mr Benn. Because of that it would have been difficult for Labour leaders like Mr Denis Healey,

Mr Peter Shore or Mr Roy Hattersley to support him with any public display of enthusiasm. But in the wake of the renewed confrontation between Mr Benn and the Shadow Cabinet his prominence in the campaign promises to cause some embarrassment.

Mr Bachehouse said yesterday: "The speakers coming here are speakers from the Labour Party. I have no wish to get into this polarization business; it is a united party in this election. We are not announcing meetings saying: 'Come and see this man, he is on the left; come and see this man, he is ever so slightly suspicious on the right.'"

Mr John Burcher, the Conservative prospective candidate, yesterday repudiated any suggestion that the Government was pursuing right-wing poli-

Councils examine decision on GLC

Two authorities face threat of legal action

By Robin Young and David Walker

Leaders of Britain's metropolitan authorities were yesterday examining the decision of the Court of Appeal to require them to discover ways in which their low fare schemes differ from those of the GLC, which were ruled illegal on Tuesday.

Two of the authorities, West Midlands and Merseyside, face the threat of legal action similar to that which the Conservative council of Bromley successfully brought against the GLC.

Of the two, the most exposed is West Midlands, where a 25 per cent cut in fares was implemented on September 5, one month before the GLC launched its "fares fair" scheme. The West Midlands council already faces three actions contesting the legality of the supplementary rate demands it is making to finance the cuts.

The actions, brought by British Leyland and GKN, large industrial ratepayers in the area, and by the West Midlands Ratepayers' Federation, are expected to be heard later this month or early in December.

In the year to last March, the council's revenue support to the West Midlands Transport Executive totalled £18.7m.

The estimated cost of the revenue package before the cuts on September 5 was £17.3m in lost revenue in a full year.

West Midlands ratepayers have been faced with a supplementary rate demand of 14p in the pound, of which 4.8p is to

finance the council's new transport policy.

In Merseyside, Liverpool City Council, which has agreed to collect a supplementary rate of 6p in the pound demanded by Merseyside Metropolitan County Council, is taking fresh legal advice in the light of the Court of Appeal's decision.

The Labour group, which took control of Merseyside in May, set aside a fare increase of 15 per cent, which was to have been introduced on July 1. Instead, it reduced fares by nearly 12 per cent on October 4, the day the GLC introduced its scheme.

South Yorkshire's support for public transport now represents 65 per cent of the transport executive's budget. Income from fares is £21.75m, and the council's support £25.2m, of which £32m is for general fares subsidy.

In Greater Manchester fares have also been frozen by the Labour controlling group, but there has been no supplementary rate precept.

Some ratepayers in London might find Tuesday's decision a relief. The Court of Appeal decision an excuse to pay no further rates at all this year. London borough treasurers said yesterday they counted the cost of the ruling.

However Mr Terence Clowry, treasurer of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, spoke for his fellow officials in promising that while councils would make no effort to collect

supplementary rates, they would summon and prosecute any ratepayers wilfully refusing to pay their general rates.

The London Transport executive, whose chairman Sir Peter Masefield, was criticised in court for lacking authority, said it was studying the decision. Sir Peter is abroad on business.

At County Hall, the GLC's lawyers are dealing over various aspects of the Appeal Court ruling. Lord Denning made specific references to the 6.1p precept levied to pay London Transport an extra subsidy of some £17m: his decision was to quash this precept. Yet only 2.6p of this was meant to subsidise the Labour manifesto policy of culling bus and Tube fares.

The rest was for the transport authority's "ordinary" deficit of £25m and to make various other adjustments in the structure of fares.

By the time of Tuesday's judgment, London councils had passed to the GLC only a small amount of the total supplementary levy they were supposed to collect on its behalf: £15m, 8 per cent of the total. All councils will now freeze their payments until the Law Lords resolve the case.

Ratepayers were advised to do likewise by the City of Westminster Chamber of Commerce. It has sent a letter to members advising that the chamber may take further legal action against

the GLC, even if the Lords reject the Appeal Court verdict.

The Appeal Court decision is being studied by the Department of the Environment. One of the oddities of the case is that the decision of Lord Denning could, if upheld, result in an increase in government expenditure. If the GLC cannot pay an extra subsidy to London Transport, then its outlays could fall to a level that would attract Government grants of around £100m.

How decision was made

The Court of Appeal's judgment in the Bromley case was based to a large extent on the wording of the London Transport Act, 1969 (Marcel Berlins writes). Local authorities in other parts of the country, however, are bound by a different law, the Transport Act, 1968.

The wording of Section 1 of the Act applying to London imposes a general duty on the GLC "to develop policies and to encourage, organize and, where appropriate, carry out measures, which will promote the provision of an efficient and economic transport facilities and services for Greater London."

The Court of Appeal interpreted the word "economic" as requiring the GLC to run transport along business lines.

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MP suggests way to avoid abuses in leaders' poll

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A method of eliminating abuses in the new electoral college system for electing the Labour Party's leader and deputy leader which was first tried at the annual conference at Brighton in September, has been proposed by a Labour MP. Mr Jeffrey Rooker, MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr and a member of the Tribune Group, suggests that the parliamentary party should promote an amendment to the Trade Union Act, 1953, which would provide that all trade union members paying the political levy to the Labour Party should be consulted in elections.

Mr Rooker, writing in *Labour Weekly*, says his suggested reform is the only method to bring together 51 different forms of trade union democracy. He also argues that the unions' block vote should be split in proportion to the votes cast by its members.

NO CHALLENGE TO DU CANN

Mr Edward du Cann, MP for Taunton, was re-elected unopposed yesterday as chairman of the 1992 Committee, comprising all the backbenchers. He had been moved to challenge Mr du Cann for the job, one of the most important in the party. There will be a contest for the two vice-chairmanships, those of Bryan (Howden) and Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes), are challenged by Mr Marcus Fox (Shipley) and Mr Peter Hordern (Horsham and Crawley).

Owen attack mystery

By a Staff Reporter

Sussex University said yesterday that it had been unable to identify those responsible for throwing tomatoes at Dr David Owen, a joint leader of the Social Democratic Party.

It denied a claim by Mrs Jackie Barnes, Brighton councillor, who said after the incident on Tuesday that meetings at the university had been disrupted and that many speakers did not last longer than five or six minutes.

That was dismissed as nonsense by Miss Caroline Broadway, the university's information officer, and as very untrue by Mr David Hall, president of the student's union.

Miss Broadway said: "It is many years since a political meeting on this campus had to be cut short by a speaker who could not say what he wanted to say. In the past year, or so, I have been to all the most likely contentious meetings at this campus and have not experienced anything."

Mrs Barnes later conceded

NURSES TO SEEK PAY REVIEW

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Nurses began a campaign yesterday to gain recognition by the Government that they must be treated as a special case in the next pay round.

The Royal College of Nursing, the biggest nursing union, is to hold 12 regional meetings over the next two months to press its case for a special case.

It is going to demand not just a pay rise in line with inflation, about 12 per cent, instead of the Government's 4 per cent limit, but a review of the way nurses' pay is determined.

Nurses are talking more and more about industrial action because of their bitterness, Mr Terence Clowry, deputy director of the college's labour relations department said.

The college produced figures to show that a first-year public health nurse earned £20 a week more than a staff nurse, with three years' training, £108 a week compared with £85.58.

P & O face lightning strikes over Ulster ferries

From John Witherow, Liverpool

The National Union of Seamen may recommend sporadic strikes on P & O ships later this month to force the company back to the negotiating table over the closure of the Liverpool-Belfast ferry service.

P & O officially closed the 150-year-old link yesterday, although the occupation of the two ferries by about 150 seamen in Liverpool had stopped the service since the weekend.

Industrial action has prevented six other P & O freighters from sailing from ports in the North-west and Ipswich. Local union officials are to meet national officers today to decide on any other immediate measures.

The occupation in Liverpool will continue unless P & O agrees to reopen the route or unless a buyer makes commitments over wages and jobs.

The union's ferry port chairman will meet on November 20 to discuss the company's strategy. A national strike seems out of the question: the union seems to favour sporadic stoppages on P & O's fleet.

The union has no doubt that the Government is serious over its refusal to intervene, but it is aware of talks with at least two private operators.

CT A double figure percentage increase is likely to be awarded to farm workers by the Agricultural Wages Board, which is to resume discussions today with the National Farmers' Union and the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers (John Wynn writes). The NUAAW says a 30 per cent increase is needed to bring farm workers into line with industrial manual workers.

'Armed force is a dangerous tool; a two-edged sword, as likely to cut a careless master as his intended victim'

Laurence Martin's 1981 Reith Lectures begin today in *The Listener*.

His theme is the role of armed force in the modern world. He will be examining the concept of 'deterrence by assured destruction', the position of Europe, the prospects of war in the Third World, and the effectiveness of arms control.

Professor Martin's six lectures promise to be both illuminating and controversial. Read them each week in *The Listener*.

THE LISTENER

Out today 50p

Chief Rabbi defends babies' right to life

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi and leader of the Jewish community in Britain, yesterday condemned the killing of handicapped babies by any act calculated to induce death, including starvation.

Dr Leonard Arthur, a paediatrician from Derby, was last week cleared of attempting to murder a newborn baby suffering from Down's Syndrome.

Sir Immanuel said that every innocent human life was infinitely precious and that the views of a baby's parents and the views of the doctors were irrelevant.

"The value of a human life can never be affected by its state of health, expectancy of life or usefulness to society," he said. "Any grading of human beings into those with a 'superior' and others with

an 'inferior' claim to life is utterly repugnant to Judaism. Jews were particularly sensitive to any such discrimination, having witnessed the horror of six million being sent to the gas chambers because they were deemed inferior, he said.

"But the principle is universal, an imperative especially urgent at this time when human life is being cheapened through the rampant rise of violence and terrorism at one level and the widespread advocacy to legalize snuffing out of the lives, or potential lives, of 'undesirables' by euthanasia and indiscriminate abortions on another level."

The absolute and infinite value of a human being's life was intrinsic and quite independent of that person's quality of life, but even if that were

not the case it was impossible to determine what that quality would be, either for the individual or their family.

Nor was it for doctors to pass such purely moral judgments. They were to heal and relieve suffering. For all these reasons, Jewish law regards the deliberate destruction of any innocent human life, in whatever state of debility, as criminal homicide.

"The moral culpability extends to any act calculated to induce death, including starvation. But some Jewish authorities draw a 'distinct line' between an active hastening of death or the withdrawal of natural means to sustain life (for example food) and the suspension of artificial, or 'heroic', methods to prolong the agony in its terminal stage."

Bringing up the Dauphin

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A moving document of royal maternity was sold at Sotheby's yesterday. It was a character study of the Dauphin, written by Marie Antoinette for his new governess 11 days after the fall of the Bastille.

It sold for £10,780 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000) to an unnamed private collector. The Dauphin died in 1795, aged six years after the memorandum was written, when he was four.

The six-page memorandum was sent for sale by an English noble family and was bought by a foreigner. It will require an export licence.

The sale of autograph manuscripts and letters ran much in line with expectations, (9 per cent unsold). The autograph manuscript of Offenbach's opera, *Robinson Crusoe*, was sold for £12,650 (estimate £10,000 to £15,000). A collection of Mussolini's speeches, drafted in his own hand, together with drafts of

the constitution of the Fascist Council, made £9,020 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000).

Sotheby's sale of modern British paintings, drawings and sculpture set a new record without achieving an exceptionally high overall level of prices (79 per cent unsold). A pastel view of the "Fish Market, San Remo", of 1878-80, by James Abbott McNeill Whistler, brought £12,000 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000), an auction record for the artist.

From more modern times, the £5,160 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000) paid by Montpelier Studio for Ivon Hitchens' "Dark Landscape", of 1944, tops previous auction prices for that artist.

Overseas sales were in difficulties. Carle's two-day auction of Chinese and Japanese art in New York was 42 per cent unsold.

MEN OF THE YEAR HONOURED

A lifeboat coxswain, a police rescue helicopter pilot, a policeman crippled in the course of duty, a champion sprinter and a disabled man were among the 11 chief guests at the annual Men of the Year organized by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation. Another man honoured was the hero of the Lebanese Embassy siege, Police Constable Trevor Lock.

PC Lock met his fellow honorees, Mr Jim Harris and Mr Christopher Cramer, the BBC television newsman.

Another policeman who was honoured by the association was Constable Philip Old. He was permanently paralysed when shot when chasing men who had raided an off licence in Hayes, west London.

Mr Charles Bowry, lifeboat coxswain at Sheerness, Kent, was another honoree. He rescued three men in force nine gale.

Allan Wells, the sprinter and Steve Davis, the snooker player, were also honoured, together with Flight Lieutenant Michael Laker, who coaxed a Seakind helicopter which saved 22 people from a blazing ship.

Overseas selling prices:
A. J. G. B. 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665

Reith lecturer questions existence of arms race

By Kenneth Gosling and Henry Stanhope

The existence of an East-West arms race was questioned in the first of this year's BBC Reith lectures last night.

Professor Laurence Martin, Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University, said on Radio 4 that the proportion of the United States gross national product spent on defence fell from 9.1 per cent in 1960 to 5.2 per cent in 1979.

The military share of the federal budget was more than halved during the same period from 49 to 23 per cent. President Reagan's new arms programme would raise it by only 1 per cent next year, Professor Martin said.

Money spent on strategic arms during the 1970s was only two-thirds of the sum spent in the 1960s, which had been only two-thirds that in the previous decade, although defence spending had risen in real terms by between 5 and 10 per cent since 1973, it had fallen as a proportion of GNP from more than 8 to about 5 per cent in the past 20 years, or so.

The analysis of arms control by Professor Martin is certain to set light again to the controversy over broadcasting and defence arguments.

Professor Martin takes issue with the unilateralist nuclear disarmers, one of whom is Professor E. J. Thompson, the historian, was earlier this year vetoed by Sir Ian Trethowan, Director General of the BBC, as the choice for the Dimpleby Lecture on television.

That decision was, in contrast to the delivery by Dr Nicholas Humphrey, another unilateralist, of the Bronowski memorial lecture.

Professor Martin acknowledged that Russia's defence spending seemed to have risen by more than 4 per cent a year in the last decade. But even that was much less than it could have managed. According to a recent estimate, the Soviet Union could have increased its military budget by an annual 7 per cent without going as far as to mobilize for war.

"I am not asserting that any particular level of defence expenditure is appropriate. I am merely suggesting that the numbers I have been quoting are scarcely what the metaphor of an accelerating, headlong race would suggest," he said.

Professor Martin argued that the effects of the European nuclear disarmament movement discriminated against the West, partly because it was less able to influence opinion in the Soviet Union, but also because Communists saw détente as a better opportunity to pursue conflict with the non-Communist world.

Professor Martin said he believed the West's constant aim should be to find ways of preserving its interests without provoking others.

"I do believe that arms control should be both more and less than some uncritical exponents suggest; more, because it can never be a substitute for defence", he said.

Far too many people who had an urgent need to investigate the dangers of armed force and unbridled military



Now a truly common entrance

Fiona Finch, aged 13 (foreground above), helped to make history this week when she sat her common entrance examination at Sherborne Preparatory School, Dorset, for it was the first time that girls took the same papers as boys on the main subjects of English, mathematics, French and science. Yesterday was the final day of the obligatory papers for the 1400 autumn candidates. Today they will be sitting optional papers, and they should

know within a few weeks whether they have secured places in public schools. The 13-plus examination papers were based on a joint syllabus devised and agreed by the boys' common entrance committee and the girls' board. The joint examination is the culmination of five years' work. In a complete year nearly 14,000 pupils, 10,000 boys and 4,000 girls, sit the common entrance examination, which was first set in 1904.

Students in teaching courses to be cut

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The University Grants Committee (UGC) has decided that the numbers of students taking postgraduate certificates in education (PGCE) courses, other than those in shortage subjects, should be cut by nearly a third in all universities.

The reduction will be equal in all institutions, regardless of differing provisions.

Letter have been sent to the 31 universities which have departments of education informing them of their new intake targets for PGCE courses next autumn. They are asked to protect student numbers in the subjects in which there is still a shortage of specialist teachers: mathematics, physics, chemistry, Welsh, and craft, design and technology.

The size of the cuts appears to differ between universities, but that is only a reflection of the varying proportion of students on the so-called shortage subject courses; 1979-80 has been taken as the base year.

If that is taken out of the equation, the reduction in all other courses will be seen to be about 30 per cent in each university.

That is the size of cut that the UGC found was necessary to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in the intake into PGCE courses next year, which the Government announced earlier this month. The committee decided against making cuts on a selective basis between institutions.

Cuts will delay medical research

By Pearce Wright,
Science Editor

Important medical research will be delayed because of government cuts in university funds, Dr John Gowans, secretary of the Medical Research Council, said yesterday. He described the economies as "savage" and as striking at the foundations on which medical research is built.

Introducing the annual report accounting for 1980 spent last year by the council on research in universities, hospitals, and in its own laboratories, Dr Gowans outlined special measures to help research groups over short-term difficulties of one or two years. But that action, he said, would mean deferring other projects.

The council was sending a letter to universities with ideas for safeguarding the best medical research teams. Nevertheless, by the end of last year the council could not fund all the applications that merited support.

He expressed anxiety that the cuts would damage irreparably the dual support system by which funds come from the research councils and the University Grants Committee (UGC), which has cuts grants over the next four years to universities. Part of that money was earmarked for the most fundamental phase of research, Dr Gowans said. It paid for that period of freedom when ideas were developing from speculation.

"We depend on that initial freedom as a stable base on which we build".

But the UGC has said medical research will not be further protected. The research council, therefore, expects to be mounting rescue operations to save some of the top research groups. In the case of particularly gifted workers, a 10-year bridging grant could be considered to ensure that outstanding individuals are not lost to medical research.

Minister attacked over refusal to aid BR

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, was accused yesterday of condemning London rail commuters to conditions "unacceptable in the transport of cattle".

Mr Russell Tuck, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, made the criticism after Mr Howell had told British Rail that it cannot expect more taxpayers' money to help it to solve its difficulties.

That decision was, in contrast to the delivery by Dr Nicholas Humphrey, another unilateralist, of the Bronowski memorial lecture.

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"I do believe that arms control should be both more and less than some uncritical exponents suggest; more, because it can never be a substitute for defence", he said.

Far too many people who had an urgent need to investigate the dangers of armed force and unbridled military

Work tests boycott threatened

By Pat Healey

Social Services Correspondent

Government plans to strengthen "availability" for work tests for the unemployed may provoke a Civil Service dispute in the New Year. Leaders of the two main unions involved are being asked by their employment sections to sanction a boycott of the tests, which are due to begin in 20 unemployment benefit offices in January.

If the national executives of the Society of Civil and Public Servants and the Civil and Public Services Association agree, members would be instructed to boycott the new tests, and could then face suspension.

The employment sections have agreed jointly to consult their members in the 20 offices affected and to explain their opposition.

The tests are to be introduced as an experiment after a study supervised by Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser, on efficiency suggested that money could be saved by ending compulsory registration as unemployed as a condition for receiving benefit.

The unions fear that voluntary registration, expected to start next October, would lead to the closure of jobs, where registration now takes place. That would mean fewer Civil Servants and a poorer service to the long-term unemployed.

The tests add one question to the form that applicants for unemployment benefit are asked to complete. It asks if claimants would accept a job "like your usual one or like your last one", and explains that what means, with similar pay, hours and conditions.

Most people answering "yes" will have their claim dealt with as normal, but those who have been out of work for months will be asked to answer "yes", and those who say "no" are to be asked to complete a second form.

That asks questions about availability for work, whether the claimant will take full-time work, whether he or she can start immediately, and whether the claimant would be willing to move to find work.

The tenor of the new form is being interpreted by the unions as an attempt to press long-term unemployed people and those caring for children, mainly married women and single parents, into accepting jobs they do not want or dropping their claims.

The Department of Employment has told the two unions that the new questions will not be compulsory, given the present state of the law.

Crash victim acted bizarre imitation of former life

A car crash victim was awarded £150,000 agreed damages in a High Court yesterday for head injuries which reduced his life to what counsel described as a bizarre imitation of what it had once been.

Mr Roger Dearsley, married, with three young children, had looked forward to taking over his family's garage business. But a collision between his car and another vehicle five years ago wrecked his life, the judge was told.

Now, at the age of 38, Mr Dearsley was in a psychiatric unit. His marriage had ended in divorce and the family business had been sold. At best he could look forward to life in a special hospital; at worst he would live in a Cheshire home, Mr John Peppitt, QC, told Mr Justice Forbes.

"His brain injuries produced rather bizarre consequences: a type of euphoria where he regards any consequence of the accident and seeks to continue to lead his life as if it had never happened", Mr Peppitt said.

After the accident, although he was incapable of resuming his job as manager of one of the garages owned by the family in Staines, Surrey, he would leave home each morning and go to a café nearby which he regarded as his office. "There he started on grandiose schemes of expansion to the garage", counsel said.

Mr Peppitt said the agreed damages award, against the driver of the other vehicle, Mr Kenneth Aspinall, of Uxbridge, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, took account of 20 per cent reduction for contributory negligence by Mr Dearsley because he had not been wearing a seat belt.

HAPPY END AT TV MOTEL

Meg Mortimer is alive, well and on her way to a new life, probably in Australia, oblivious of the fire which wrecked her Crossroads motel. She missed the blaze and news of it was withheld from her by her daughter Jill in a tearful farewell on board the QE2. Television viewers of Crossroads last night discovered that ATV chose a happy farewell from the series for Meg Mortimer, played by Noelle Gordon. It was one of five possibilities, the rest of which were said.

Despite the sadness of the parting, millions of viewers breathed a sigh of relief when they discovered that Meg Mortimer had not perished.

Nurse inquest plea victory

From Our Correspondent

The father of Helen Smith, the British nurse who died in Saudi Arabia more than two years ago, has won a High Court judicial review of his plea for an inquest.

Mr Ronald Smith, has fought a long battle to have an inquest in Britain. But the authorities insisted that the inquest should be held in Saudi Arabia, where the death of someone who died abroad.

Mr Justice Forbes, sitting in private on Tuesday, granted an application by Mr Smith for a High Court hearing to consider whether an inquest can be held in Britain, in open court, will be before two judges of the Queen's Bench Division, probably next month.

Mr Smith, a former policeman, of Eshott Avenue, Gisle-

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PARLIAMENT November 11 1981

Howe predicts slower fall in inflation

COMMONS

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the Commons he did not believe they would see inflation falling in the next 12 months as fast as it had in the last 12 months. The fall in the exchange rate must, for a time, involve some pressure in the opposite direction. But the trend should be considered, remain downwards.

He also stated that for some time to come earnings in real terms were bound to be negative. The effect on consumption because of that had to be set alongside the beneficial effects from the additional overtime and less short-time working.

He was speaking in the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech and Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, who declared that the country was living through a tragedy the dimensions and consequences of which they had scarcely begun to grasp.

Mr Shore was moving an amendment to the motion for a loyal address in reply to the Queen's Speech. He said the Government had decided to continue its disastrous economic policies which have already resulted in record levels of unemployment and loss of output and that the Queen's Speech does not contain any measures which even begin to deal with the economic problems which now face the country.

He said they were entering a process of collapse greater than in any other industrial country. As well as firms and jobs disappearing, they were witnessing plant and machinery being auctioned off to competitors in developed and developing countries. This could only be put right by massive new investment.

It was true the base rate had fallen by half a per cent, some large contracts had been won, and industrial output had risen half a per cent in the past month, but that was trivial and no more than crumbs of hope.

If the Prime Minister was ready to talk about some firm who had had successes, what had she to say about the many which had simply ceased to exist?

The gap between pay settlements and the rate of inflation was almost unparalleled. Industrial investment had fallen to a level in the public sector. How severe these cuts would be seen when the Cabinet discussions had been completed.

The country was in a downward spiral of decline so deep as to be almost without comparison on a scale that almost defied analogy in recent history. And this was happening at precisely the time when the last flood of North Sea oil was at its peak.

The Queen's Speech was a bald unconvincing restatement of the policies of the last two and a half years.

In her speech on November 4, Mrs Thatcher made astonishing assertions that her disastrous

policies would, not in some distant future but in the next 12 months, be transformed into visible success. There was evidence, not of real-world changes, but of an increasing distance from reality, a world of make-believe, into which Mrs Thatcher was increasingly withdrawing.

She generously admitted that unemployment, however less than inflation, last year she was telling the unemployed to leave their homes and go to other places where work was available.

This year she has left it to Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, to tell people to get on their bikes and find work.

Her best defence was that unemployment was inevitable in a free market. From that dubious proposition, she allowed herself to argue that she was creating employment by reducing inflation, even when unemployment had more than doubled and inflation, in spite of the best of intentions, remained stubbornly high.

If Mrs Thatcher thought it was a peculiarly British weakness that led to the great growth of inflation, that it was due to low productivity, to unreasonable trade unions and to wrong attitudes to work, how did she explain the tripling of unemployment in every part of the West? The answer is no answer.

The Prime Minister and her Chancellor thought that all the nation's problems were due to the fact that it had paid itself too much. That was why the old and discredited medium-term financial policy was not only to be retained but reinforced by measures which, in the Prime Minister's words, would alter the balance of power between labour and management.

To be safe inside her own intellectual and moral prison, the Prime Minister had to assert again and again, with parrot-like persistence, "There is no alternative". Hardly anyone of intellectual substance in the country now held her view.

There was hardly a reputable body of opinion—industrial, political and in the City, including some of the most intelligent members of her own party—which was not now urging a substantial increase in public expenditure.

Of course there would be the usual objections. But they were already thoroughly inflated by high unemployment by choice, the Government estimated that the £3,000m per annum and the recent Manpower Services Commission figure of no less than £12,500m per annum.

In the absence of exchange controls, billions of pounds of British money was going abroad to foreign oil and gas companies.

The Queen's Speech was a bald unconvincing restatement of the policies of the last two and a half years.

In her speech on November 4, Mrs Thatcher made astonishing assertions that her disastrous

propagated and had imprisoned those who from the start were only too willing to be imprisoned by this doctrine.

Reflation needed strong supporting policies. There was the possibility that an increase in public spending and economic expansion could find its way into increased savings and investment.

There were those who dismissed a new understanding as being undesirable or ineffective. But his own confidence rested on the overriding priority to reduce unemployment.

Where that understanding exists (he continued) and where the links and connections between government and the private sector are maintained, particularly the Labour Party and the trade union movement, are preserved, we have bonds which, though thin as air, are as strong as hoops of steel.

He had no illusions about the problems which would be bequeathed to Labour nor about the difficulties of finding solutions, but there was an alternative strategy, Labour's strategy.

It is one (he said) which offers new hope to the British people. In contrast, the economic proposals in the Queen's Speech offer nothing but decline and despair.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said successive governments of both parties had all fallen victim to the seductive siren song of the market.

He said the Government had to place the framework of economic and financial discipline which they had set. This was the main reason, why, during the past 20 years, successive governments had not been able to achieve their economic objectives.

He did not suggest that those whose policies had not prevailed were not entitled to criticise the Government. But they should remember that the market, if they too, had been obedient to the discipline of the market, they would have been successful.

The whole world was experiencing the ravages of persistent, uncontrolled inflation and economic stagnation while still adjusting to the effects of the major oil shock. It was important to see British problems in the international context.

It was essential not to relax efforts to fight inflation, but to sustain those efforts with determined resolve. The Government required that inflation was first brought under control.

The burden of Government spending, borrowing and taxation was too heavy. The Government must be reluctant to continue further increases in any of these. It was a matter of choice. It was much more than a choice. It was a choice of life or death.

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nationalized industries this year was 15 per cent higher than a year ago. We are anxious (he went on) to find ways of involving private capital in the nationalized industries. That could bring the industries, as it should, more under the influence of the market.

One particular proposal we are examining at the moment is for a new type of British Telecom. It would be a company in which the Government would have a 50 per cent stake.

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with organised labour on cost control and a national procedure for setting it. This had to be done if the country was to recover.

In the next stage, general defence should be allowed to expand to the levels that would bring all resources reasonably soon into production. A moderate tariff should be restricted for a time on manufactured imports.

Mr Maurice Macmillan (Farnham, C) said the time had come for a change in the emphasis of Government policy though he was not suggesting a move towards the sort of reflationary, inflationary ideas put forward by the Opposition.

There were considerable risks involved but there were greater risks, too, in doing nothing. More public investment was needed, especially for the sort of projects which would bring work and contracts to the great deindustrialised areas.

The Government should use production incentives to get at going ahead and so that it could start employing people.

Mr William Rodgers (Teesside, Stockport, SDP) said Labour's economic policy was a disaster. It was a policy of self-destruction. It was a policy of economic suicide.

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that involved a craft industry which would soak up a great deal of unemployment.

Mr David Price (Barnsley, C) said the Government must encourage the wealth creators and wealth creators at all levels. He made no distinction between the public and private sectors, though he distinguished between the wealth producers and consumers.

There had been too many on the consuming side and not enough on the production side. The Government should work rapidly towards a general reduction in interest rates. Britain needed more stability in exchange rates.

The continuing increase in public borrowing was a sign of the general increase in prices must be restrained. There should be a reduction in the public sector, abolition of the national insurance surcharge.

The Government must continue to encourage investment in industry and employment. The Government spent too much money supporting the old sugar industries and not enough on the new industries.

Mr Christopher Patten (Bath, C) said Conservative MPs who had been elected in 1979 were now in a position to find a strategy around which they could unite, one which would achieve what the Government was elected to do.

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contribution without any equivalent reduction in the national insurance surcharge this would deal a death blow to industrial confidence.

Mr Nigel Forman (Sutton, Carlisle, C) said a policy of further deflation would make unemployment much worse. It would be a blow to industry at a time when some economic revival might just now be in sight, and to the costs of the recession, and sound the death knell of the Conservative at the next election.

Mr John Skellern, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab), said that the Government was seeking off national assets because of its incompetence in the management of public expenditure. That was not a Conservative policy, but a Conservative failure.

It was useless for Mrs Thatcher to say there was no alternative to the Conservative policy. There could be a united country which understood what it wanted and was prepared to do for it. The Labour Party was in a position, and would increasingly be in a position, to make that possible.

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Mr Francis Fyfe, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons (Glasgow, Lab), said the Government's economic policies were deeply flawed and of long standing. They had made the nation's economy vulnerable to a sudden shock.

The Government, he said, detests this slump. It detests it because it is a sign of the failure of its policies. It is a sign of the failure of its policies.

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Paisley told to attend on Monday

SPEAKER

The Speaker made it clear in a statement following an incident yesterday when two Ulster MPs shouted at the Prime Minister from the upper gallery that he wished one of them to be in the House to hear his ruling on Monday on the George.

The Speaker, Mr George Thomas, said he wished to make a statement on the incident which concerned the conduct of the Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U) and Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast, East, Dem U).

Last night (he continued) when I had my attention drawn to the reports in the media of the words that were uttered, I have been used by both MPs in this House, I have noticed to Mr Paisley that I would wish him to be in his usual place to hear what I have to say.

I understand that Mr Paisley has been in the precincts of the House and, indeed, was here when we began our business this afternoon, but I had a message from him to say that he could not come to the House because he was receiving a deputation. (Cries of "Oh.")

I must say at once that I strongly deplore the conduct of both MPs—indeed, of the whole Chamber in order to avoid the authority of the Chair as well as if they spoke the words that were uttered.

I therefore propose, since it is entirely wrong for any MP to be able to refuse to come to the Chamber to answer as to whether he used completely unparliamentary, abusive and offensive words, that I shall deal with the matter on Monday next as though it was this day, which is plenty of notice for Mr Paisley to come to this House.

If he does not come to this House I shall then act in his absence.

Repayment of grant by car firm

SCOTLAND

There was no prospect of another car factory at Linwood, Mr Alexander Fletcher, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, declared at a meeting of the Scottish Conservative Party in Glasgow.

Mr Fletcher said the Government was not prepared to consider the sale of the plant and machinery which was the subject of the grant.

Mr Norman Buchan (West Fife, Labour, Lab) called on the minister to ensure that money was made available to the car firm to enable it to pay back the grant.

Mr Fletcher said the Government was not prepared to consider the sale of the plant and machinery which was the subject of the grant.

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Scotland. The community has poured vast sums—over £100m of public money—into that factory, including the infrastructure, and now it is going to close.

Will he stop the sale and use the plant and machinery, which was the subject of the grant, to build a new car factory at Linwood back to work and stop this nonsense?

Mr Fletcher: It is not correct that none of the money will come back to the Government. It will be used to build a new car factory at Linwood back to work and stop this nonsense.

As for his protestations about the sale of the plant and machinery, we should stop the sale. I understand the depth of his feelings. It is shared by every MP, but there is no prospect of another car factory at Linwood.

We are doing everything possible to bring new industries and jobs to Scotland. We are doing everything possible to bring new industries and jobs to Scotland.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot Nat): The outrage in the West of Scotland is the result of the Government's policy. It is a result of the Government's policy.

Mr Fletcher: I am sorry to hear that. I am sorry to hear that.

Mr Fletcher: I am sorry to hear that. I am sorry to hear that.

he will not. In this Government, make public funds available where commercial prospects are dim.

Mr Fletcher: The Scottish Office and the Department of Industry have been ready to give financial assistance to every viable investment.

Mr Bruce Millan, Chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland (Glasgow, Labour, Lab): It is offensive to the people of Scotland to hear that after the devastation caused by the company and the Government, the Linwood factory is to be sold.

Mr Fletcher: I am sorry to hear that. I am sorry to hear that.

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car plant and provide modern facilities for modern jobs.

Mr Millan: No single new job has come to the Linwood area since the factory closed. It is a disaster.

Mr Fletcher: The Scottish Office and the Department of Industry have been ready to give financial assistance to every viable investment.

Mr Bruce Millan, Chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland (Glasgow, Labour, Lab): It is offensive to the people of Scotland to hear that after the devastation caused by the company and the Government, the Linwood factory is to be sold.

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Operators interested in ferry

ULSTER LINK

A Government initiative to keep the Belfast-Liverpool ferry service running following the withdrawal by P & O would be fatal because of the loss of jobs.

Mr Denis Connaman, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Manchester, Lab), said: It is inconceivable that the Government would consider the sale of the ferry service.

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potential for development, to make that investment.

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Bill gives more rights to detained mental patients

By Lucy Hodges

The long-awaited Bill reforming the mental health law, published yesterday, impressed critics of the Government with the rights it proposes to give to some detained patients but appalled them by leaving powers with the professionals in certain areas.

The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, which was published with an explanatory White Paper, does away with the paternalism and professional discretion written into the 1959 law and gives patients legal safeguards against wrongful admission and treatment.

It gives patients many more opportunities to apply to a mental health review tribunal for release and introduces automatic tribunal hearings for those whose cases have not been reviewed for three years. Tribunal hearings will increase from 904 last year to about 4,500 a year.

The Bill says that any patient whose detention is renewed by a tribunal will have to be able to benefit from further treatment. Mr Larry Gostin, legal director of MIND, the mental health charity, said that would mean that patients would no longer languish in institutions without any prospect of treatment.

The Bill proposes a watchdog body, a quango called the Mental Health Act Commission, which will protect the

interests of detained patients. The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday. The new body would be composed of lawyers, doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers and laymen serving part time.

They will visit each of the 300 local hospitals and mental nursing homes in England and Wales, with detained patients once or twice a year. They will make one visit a month to the four special hospitals for mentally abnormal offenders.

In their visits the commission members will make themselves available to detained patients who wish to see them. They will ensure that staff are helping patients to understand their legal position and their rights, the White Paper says.

"They will look at patients' records of admission and renewal of detention and at records relating to treatment. They will also ensure that detained patients are satisfied with the handling of any complaints they make."

The decision on when treatment can be imposed on patients, the most controversial part of the commission's work, is to be decided by the appointment of psychiatrists for that purpose.

The commission will draw up a code of practice which will advise which treatment should not be given without the patient's consent, but individual cases will be decided by the specially appointed psychiatrists.

The Bill proposes that

treatments which give rise to special concern, such as brain surgery, should be administered only with the patient's consent and the agreement of an independent doctor.

Drugs, electro-convulsive therapy and surgery which is not included in the first category, can be given without the patient's consent if an independent doctor agrees. The Bill then mentions a third category of treatment "including general medical and nursing care", which can be given without the patient's consent.

MIND was scathingly critical of that point. Mr Gostin said that while Government had grasped the nettle of reform on consent to treatment, it had rendered it meaningless by leaving exclusive review to the professionals. Doctors should not be the only people to decide such questions.

"I feel quite confident that if this proposal goes through it will become increasingly more unpopular and the public will become less and less confident in it as a safeguard," Mr Gostin said.

He was convinced that the only reason the commission had been proposed was to accommodate the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the Bill. The omission was expected and it is understood that it will be included in the legislation as it goes through Parliament.



Adam and Eve and (right) two seventeenth-century royal gardeners, John Tradescant, father and son, are depicted in a new window at the Tradescant Centre, St Mary-at-Lambeth, London. The church, alongside Lambeth Palace, after being declared redundant by the ecclesiastical authorities was saved from demolition and restored as a museum of gardening history. The window, commissioned by the Glaziers' and Painters' of Glass Company for the Tradescant Trust, was designed and made by Lawrence Lee, ARCA.

Press ban too wide, judge says

By Frances Gibb

A ban imposed by West Sussex magistrates under the new Contempt of Court Act on the reporting of a committee proceedings in an alleged gun-running case, was said by a High Court judge yesterday to be too wide.

Mr Justice Forbes said that the magistrates at Horsham had made the order without considering whether it could be defined more narrowly. His view and that of Mr Justice Gledhill was that the magistrates had the power to make the order under Section 4 (b) of the Act, they never really applied their minds to the question whether the order they made should be restricted.

The judge was commenting during the second day of a hearing that is the first challenge to the use by courts of powers under the Act. The two judges had heard that the ban, imposed on October 16,

prevented the press from reporting even the names, addresses and charges faced by defendants in the trial.

Mr Desmond Browne, counsel for the West Sussex County Times, which is challenging the ban, said its imposition was an attempt to get round a defendant's right to have reporting restrictions lifted.

That right had been unchallengeable until this year, when the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act was passed, giving magistrates discretion over the lifting of reporting restrictions if any of the accused objected.

But that Act, brought in after the committee proceedings in the trial of Mr Jeremy Thorpe, where restrictions were lifted despite objections from some of the accused, had not come into force in time to help the defendants in the Horsham case, Mr

Browne said. They had therefore invoked the newly passed Contempt of Court Act.

It was an abuse of the Act to use it to try to get round the Criminal Justice Act, which gave a defendant the right to lift reporting restrictions, he said.

"It can never have been intended by Parliament to use the Contempt of Court Act, passed on July 27, to remedy a criticism of the 1967 Criminal Justice Act which had already been remedied by Parliament only five days before the passing of the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act."

The ban is being contested by Mr Ian Farquharson, a journalist with the West Sussex County Times, the National Union of Journalists, backed by the National Council for Civil Liberties, and the newspaper, backed by the Newspaper Society.

Warning of battle ahead for higher farm prices

By John Young

Agriculture was likely to remain economically weak in Britain and most other EEC countries in 1982-83, Mr David Evans, chief economic and policy adviser to the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said yesterday.

But while there was a strong case for substantially increased price support levels, there would also be strong pressure to hold down price increases so as to contain the cost to the common agricultural policy.

"I cannot see that there will be any change in the strong conviction among certain members of the Council of Ministers that Community expenditure on agriculture must be brought down," he told members of the Farmers' Club in London.

avoid arrangements which discriminated against it. "There is a great likelihood that we will be asked to make some revaluation of the green pound. With incomes at such a depressed level this would be totally unacceptable."

The NFU was also particularly concerned about the position in intensive livestock and horticulture, where a combination of unfair aids in other countries, the strength of sterling, and the unevenness of Britain's marketing efforts made it particularly vulnerable.

The Commission's guidelines for the common agricultural policy showed a continuing preoccupation with the belief that the small man must be protected at all costs. That kind of approach was economically wrong.

Scots get more out of a car

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

The cost of motoring is highest in the South-east and lowest in the Midlands but in terms of miles travelled the thirteenth driving 'a' Scotsman, according to a survey published today in *Drive*, the Automobile Association magazine.

It shows that the cost of running a car in Scotland for the year to the end of last June was 8.5p a mile, compared with 10.3p in the South-east.

Because Scottish motorists covered a high mileage they got most from such fixed costs as insurance and road tax. Scottish drivers covered 8,822 miles a year, nearly 1,000 more than the national average.

But the Scots' biggest economies were in service and repair bills, which were £40 lower than the average figure. One explanation for that is that Scots have the highest proportion of new cars in Britain.

Drive says that the high cost of motoring in the South-east, where the average car cost £895, was a reflection of heavy traffic, shorter journeys and bigger cars.

Midlands drivers paid least in total, £832, but more a mile than the Scots because they travelled less. The survey shows that motorists in the North were driving 400 miles a year less than in previous years, probably because of the recession.

Although Scotland has the highest proportion of people in the top AB income bracket, only 30 per cent of Scottish households have more than one car, compared with 43 per cent in the South-east.

IRAN EMBASSY GROUP FREED

Thirteen Iranians who took part in the occupation of their country's embassy in Kensington, west London, last September, were given conditional charges for two years at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday.

The demonstrators, who were not identified in court for fear of reprisals to their families in Iran, were each ordered to pay £130 compensation to the Iranian Government. They all admitted trespassing at the embassy.

The court heard that the demonstrators, who opposed the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini, sprayed slogans on the embassy walls and destroyed documents, causing damage estimated at more than £7,000.

Nuclear leak blamed on fuel rod error

By Nicholas Timmins

A mistake by staff at the Oldbury nuclear power station, near Bristol, was partly responsible for a radiation leak at the nuclear reprocessing plant at Windscale, Cumbria last month, the Central Electricity Generating Board said yesterday.

The leak led to the plant, now renamed Sellafield, being closed for 24 hours, and contaminated milk on farms nearby.

The board said that nuclear fuel rods which had just been removed from the reactor were wrongly sent to Windscale. They should have been stored for at least 90 days before dispatch, to allow short-lived radioactivity to die away.

As a result, the fuel was more radioactive than it should have been when it was reprocessed, resulting in the release of more than seven tonnes of radioactive iodine.

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, which runs the Sellafield plant, yesterday refused to say whether it normally checks fuel to make sure it is not too radioactive for treatment before putting it into the reprocessing line.

"That is not something that

at this stage we want to talk about, until we have reported on the incident to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate," a spokesman said.

The generating board said the error occurred because newly discharged fuel was moved in a skip in a cooling pond alongside the area where fuel ready for reprocessing has its outer skin stripped off before dispatch to British Nuclear Fuels. Seven newly discharged fuel elements were taken in error from the wrong skip and mixed with a consignment of 200 fuel rods that were ready for dispatch.

Six of those fuel rods went into the reprocessing line at Sellafield on October 4, 27 days after they had come out of the reactor, resulting in the release of radioactivity.

Steps have now been taken to segregate the newly discharged fuel more clearly from that being stripped ready for dispatch, the board said, to ensure that the error was not repeated. The incident has also been drawn to the attention of other nuclear power station managers, although there was no evidence that other stations had made similar mistakes.

Many in hostels still at risk despite fire rules

By A Staff Reporter

A new obligation on local authorities to enforce fire regulations in hostels for the homeless was welcomed yesterday by the "overdue safeguard" by Char, the Campaign for Single Homeless People, even though it will cover only about a quarter of hostel places.

Mr Nicholas Beacock, director of Char, said yesterday, "but it is not going to guarantee that there will not be further tragedies. Many people living in hostels will still be at risk."

The new obligation, which comes into force on December 3, follows at least 35 deaths in hostel fires in the past four years, including the 10 women victims of the fire at a hostel in Kilburn, London, last year.

The order, however, affects only the largest hostels; those with three or more stores with a floor area of more than 500 square metres. According to Char, only 17 of the 35 who died were in hostels of a size to be covered by the new order.

The rest, including those who died at Kilburn in the worst hostel fire in recent

years, were in hostels where local authorities will still not have an obligation to enforce fire precautions.

"Although the measure is welcome," Mr Beacock said, "it will still be discretionary for local authorities to enforce fire precautions in the smaller hostels. Given the economic climate, many local authorities are not going to use their discretionary powers to search out the smaller hostels and provide the funds to enforce fire regulations. Many people will still be at risk."

Where a local authority requires fire precautions to be installed, a mandatory grant of three quarters of the cost, up to £6,750, is available. The local authority also has discretion to provide the full cost.

Where a hostel applies voluntarily for the grant, however, the local authority need provide only up to three quarters of the cost. Many hostels cannot afford to meet the rest of the bill, and so do not apply.

The order enforcing the new obligations is to be laid before Parliament today.

IN BRIEF

Elephant to work on Welsh farm

A two-year-old elephant was flown from Sri Lanka to Heathrow airport, London, yesterday on its way to a new life on a Welsh farm run by a religious group called the Community of the Many Names of God.

Vallu Uma, or Earth Mother in Hindu, which was a gift from the Sri Lanka Government, is four feet tall. It is planned that the elephant, which will be used in religious parades, will eventually earn keep by doing jobs on the 100-acre estate at Llanymorfa, north of Carmarthen.

Accidental new apple

Mr John Clarke, a retired lecturer, aged 82, of Dofforggan, Kerry, Powys, believes that a tree grown from a seed in an apple core thrown by chance into his garden 15 years ago, may produce a new variety of eating apples. The Royal Horticultural Society has asked him to submit nine of the fruit to a tasting panel in London.

Fan is fined £750

Peter Haigh, aged 22, of Attentborough Close, Newtown, Birmingham, was fined £750 at Birmingham yesterday for assaulting a woman police superintendent at a match between Aston Villa and Leicester last season. The officer had her nose broken when she was hit by a milk bottle.

Weaver's bequest

Miss Gladys Dickinson, and Miss Nora Biddulph, who worked together for more than 40 years running the Quantock Weavers, at Plainsfield, near Taunton, have bequeathed £5,000 to Somerset Education Authority for the use of "silkweaving, weaving and natural dyes."

Man dead in cell

Malcolm James Edye, aged 33, who was on remand in Winchester prison accused of murdering a security guard near Plymouth on September 9 and was due to appear before Winchester magistrates today, was found hanged in a cell yesterday.

Cockerel fine

Mrs Dora Griffiths, aged 57, of Mochdre, Colwyn Bay, was fined £5 at Colwyn Bay yesterday for keeping a noisy cockerel. The prosecution was brought by Colwyn Borough Council. Mrs Griffiths, who also keeps a hen, a wounded seagull and a mongrel dog, denied that the cockerel was noisy.

Burning his books

A Manchester man of 84 today won £104,000 on the pools a day after accidentally burning his pension and rent book, which he had put in the oven for safekeeping and forgot to take out when he cooked a meal.

Group win £877,256

A group of customers at the Tiger Inn, at Haxby, near York, yesterday received a cheque for a £877,256 pools win, said to be the second largest ever.

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DATE	DESCRIPTION	CASH	CHEQUE	RECEIPTS	WITHDRAWALS	BALANCE
12/11/81	12/11/81					1001.50
13/11/81	13/11/81					1051.50
14/11/81	14/11/81					1067.25
15/11/81	15/11/81					1067.25
16/11/81	16/11/81					1097.52
17/11/81	17/11/81					1207.52
18/11/81	18/11/81					1182.52
19/11/81	19/11/81					1202.52
20/11/81	20/11/81					1238.22
21/11/81	21/11/81					1195.46
22/11/81	22/11/81					1162.46
23/11/81	23/11/81					112.46
24/11/81	24/11/81					157.46
25/11/81	25/11/81					274.46
26/11/81	26/11/81					317.48
27/11/81	27/11/81					399.48

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Baby died 'after three months of cruelty'

From Our Correspondent, Norwich

A baby died after three months of cruelty at the hands of his mother and her lover although he was on the social services register of children at risk, Norwich Crown Court was told yesterday.

Jason Caesar, aged 19 months, was seen more than 20 times in the month leading up to his death by doctors, social and welfare workers, and even had two spells in hospital.

A catalogue of injuries were noted, including fractures of both arms, extensive bruising of the head and body and a burn mark on his groin. Although four case conferences were held, the last only three days before his death, social and welfare workers decided not to take the boy into custody.

Mr Anthony Wilcken, for the prosecution, said: "The general feeling at the last case conference was that there was insufficient evidence for moving the child from his home but arrangements had been made to do so if the necessity arose."

The boy's mother, Mrs Christina Caesar, divorced, aged 25, and Andrew Clark, her lover, aged 24, of Darwin Drive, Cambridge, both pleaded not guilty to manslaughter.

They also denied wilfully ill-treating the child over three months between August and November last year, causing him unnecessary suffering.

The court was told that the boy died from hypothermia as he lay in his bed in his unheated bedroom on a freezing November night last year.

A post-mortem examination showed that in addition to extensive bruising the child suffered internal injuries, including a tear in the stomach which caused bleeding. Mr Wilcken said that the blow needed to produce that injury would cause shock in an infant, which in turn would lead to a loss of body heat.

Mr Wilcken added that the couple had given "inconsistent and conflicting explanations as to how the injuries had been caused."

He said: "They claim some happened after the baby was knocked down by an albatross dog and on another occasion had fractured his elbow when he fell himself to the floor in a temper tantrum."

The trial continues today.

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ABBEY NATIONAL SHARE ACCOUNT

Delay no ground for striking out probate action

It appeared, however, that the defendants had not submitted the duty as such was a debt to claim in the Probate Court, so that the duty was not a debt to the laches as would in a court equity but any proceedings in the Probate Court would be void. The decision therefore constituted no binding authority in the present case. Certain obligations of the laches as such were not laches appeared to be either.

A case referring to *Brinkman v. Brinkman*, 100 Cal. 2d 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895

point since his Lordship was satisfied that such a power should be exercised in the present case.

It could not fairly be said that the plaintiff's delay to bring proceedings was unreasonable, since, in March, until January 1960, appeared possible or probable that the estate would be insolvent. There was no evidence that the defendant had been negligent in the risk that a fair trial would not be possible or that any serious prejudice had been caused to the plaintiff.

Mr Sunducks submitted that if the deceased even though he might have been gravely ill at the time of his death, he was competent to give previously instructed solicitors to prepare it, and his due execution sufficed to show knowledge and approval on his part of the contents of the will.

The authorities seemed to him that though the deceased might be in a state approaching insanity, if he was able to understand the nature of his previous instructions, precise at the moment of execution, and was sufficient provided that he showed that he was capable of understanding and did understand that he was executing the will for the purposes which he had given instructions.

His Lordship thought it arguable that the facts alleged would amount to a fulfilment of the courts as to the righteousness of the transaction and would suffice to support a plea of undue influence unless the plaintiff succeeded in rebutting such suspicions.

There was at least sufficient evidence to raise a presumption

the trial, Dixon anticipated that the striking out jurisdiction, which should only be exercised in a clear case. All the allegations of fact, as to how the sodicil came to be proposed. And, secondly, would have to be investigated. In the final result, despite Mr. Samnick's persuasive arguments, on Mr. Dixon's behalf, he failed to satisfy the court that the action would be struck out on either of the two grounds.

Solicitors: Waterhouse & Co for Cozens-Hardy & Jewson, Newcastle; Maxwell, Bailey & Co for Foxham, Welch & Co, Tyneside.

But a more realistic view of the facts was that the warning was based on the expectation that the

The court had to ask itself the three questions propounded in *People v. Connolly* (1966) 2 OR 42 (195), namely whether there was an obstruction of a constable, whether the constable was acting in the execution of his duty, and whether the obstruction was intended to obstruct the constable. On the facts those three matters were made out. The appeal would be allowed and the case remitted to the crown court for the hearing to be continued.

following question as a point of law of general public importance: whether an act which prevents the commission of an offence which a police officer suspects may be committed can be an act of obstruction of a police constable in the execution of his duty when that duty is to keep observation with a view to detecting and obtaining evidence if that offence is committed.

Peace in the Middle East: Begin digs in to fight the Saudi proposals

West Bank gets plenty of stick but little carrot

From Christopher Walker, Bethlehem, Nov 11
The full effect of the tough new "carrot and stick" policy being pursued by the Israeli security forces was being felt in many parts of the occupied West Bank today as Israeli and Egyptian ministers met in Cairo in a fresh attempt to bridge differences over Palestinian autonomy.

[Egyptian negotiators in the Palestinian autonomy talks called on Israel to change its policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Disagreement prevailed at the meeting although both sides said the talks were helpful.—Reuter.]

The new policy was outlined earlier this week by its chief architect, Mr. Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister and former general. The idea was to improve the quality of life for the peaceful population while cracking down much harder against West Bankers who supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

This has led over the past week to the arrest of the leaders of unions representing lawyers, doctors and engineers' unions in the West Bank; the imposition of curfews on two towns; the indefinite closure of the largest Arab university and the threatened closure of the second largest; the arrest of the editor of one Arabic newspaper; and the temporary closure of another.

Shopkeepers were prevented from closing their stores this morning as a protest against the new Israeli policy of dividing the military and civilian administration in the West Bank. Two who refused to open had their shops, complete with stock, welded shut for a 50-day punishment by troops using oxyacetylene.

Campus declared closed area

The 15,000 Palestinian residents of the hillside town of Beit Sahur, less than two miles away, are living under a strict military curfew imposed at midnight after Palestinian youths threw a Molotov cocktail at an Israeli military vehicle. Local Arabs claimed the weapon had been crudely made out of paint thinner and failed to explode. Another curfew was imposed in the town of Kalkila after a similar fire bomb attack.

Israeli troops with a spiked road block were this morning guarding the main entrance to Bethlehem's Vatican-financed university, the second largest in

the West Bank, which has been the scene of frequent nationalist demonstrations since November 1 when Professor Menachem Milson, the West Bank civilian governor, took office.

I was refused entry, along with a United States correspondent, by an Israeli soldier who told us that the campus had been declared a closed area by the military government. It later emerged that three leading university administrators had earlier been summoned to the military government headquarters and warned that the campus would be shut in the next few days if demonstrations did not cease.

Sharon's promises 'not kept'

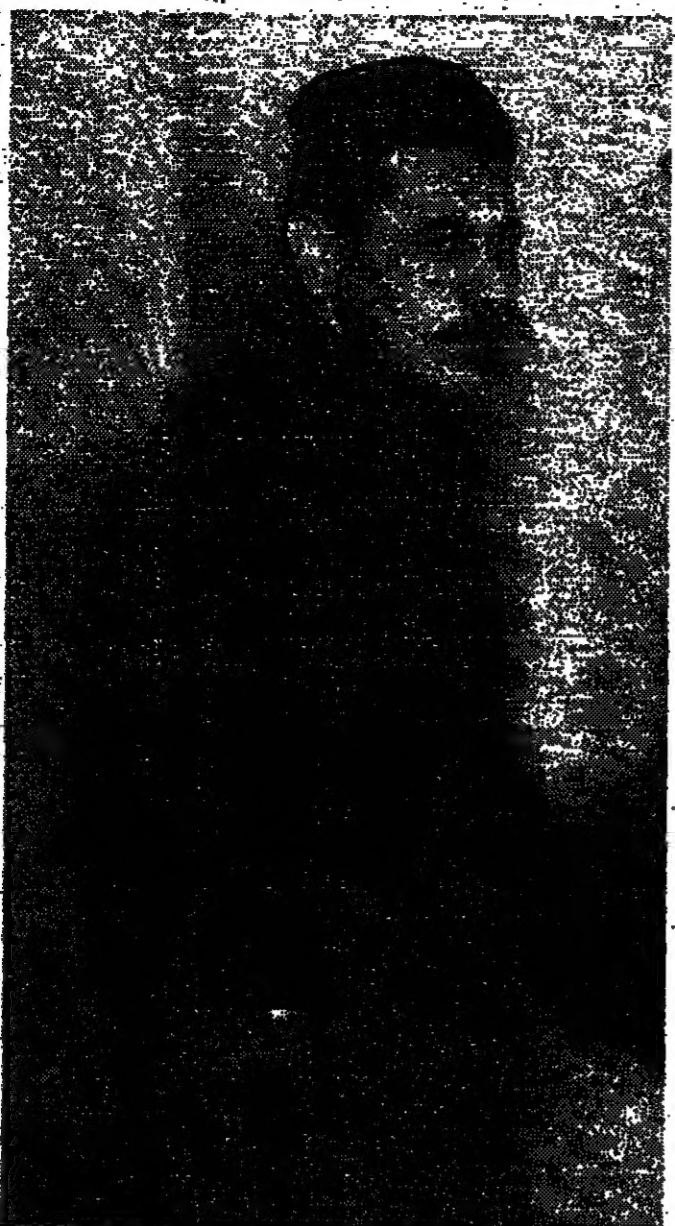
Mr. Elias Freij, the elected mayor of Bethlehem, in an interview with *The Times*, accused Mr. Sharon of going back on pledges which he made in a meeting soon after taking up his portfolio.

"Among other things, he pledged that the Israelis would abandon collective punishments," the mayor said. "He also said that troops would be stepped going on to university campuses, but that is exactly what is happening."

Mr. Freij, a Christian Arab, is generally regarded as one of the more moderate West Bank leaders and it had even been hoped by some officials that he might be one of those prepared to support the new civilian administration. He claimed today that the new policy had only worsened the atmosphere.

Elsewhere, Arab shopkeepers in East Jerusalem were ordered to end a 48-hour commercial strike which had turned the former Arab sector of the Israeli capital into a ghost town. Last night the commander of Israel's central command signed orders empowering his troops forcibly to open any Palestinian shops which remained closed.

In Ramallah, the scene of many recent disturbances, Israeli troops carrying riot sticks and automatic rifles toured the streets.



Terrorist ringleader: Addan Jaber, aged 33, entering the court, where he was convicted, with three others, of the Hebron killing. Israeli authorities say he trained in the Soviet Union.

Death call at trial

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Nov 11
Israeli settlers demanding the death penalty disrupted a military court today in Nablus, on the West Bank when an Army prosecutor recommended life imprisonment for four Arabs convicted of a terrorist killing. They killed six Israelis walking home from religious services in Hebron on May 7, last year.

If the death sentences were passed it would make the killers the first Arab terrorists to be executed by Israel. Some of the protesters were ejected from the court. The convicted men will be sentenced on Tuesday.

Israel abolished the death penalty except for treason and Nazi war crimes, but the Arabs were tried under British regulations, which were incorporated into Israeli law and Jordanian law, which is still in force in the occupied West Bank.

The Government's policy has been never to ask military courts to impose death penalties, but the Cabinet, after the Hebron murders, announced a change of policy to permit prosecutors to ask for death in particularly brutal cases.

Residents of Kiryat Arba, a suburb of Hebron, who filled the courtroom, kept up and shouted when Captain Haim Greenwald, the prosecutor, asked for life sentences. Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the settlers' spiritual leader, and others, were ejected.

Israeli MPs visit US to save Camp David

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 11

Six members of the Israeli Knesset arrived in Washington today on a visit to try to ensure that the United States remains committed to the Camp David accords as the only way of achieving a settlement in the Middle East and stops its flirtation with the rival Saudi Arabian peace plan.

The Israeli eight-point formula implies recognition of Israel by confirming the right of all countries in the region to live in peace. It does not mention Israel by name. It also calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and proposes the removal of Israeli settlements from the occupied Arab lands. Palestinians, it says, should be allowed to return to their former homes and be paid compensation if they choose not to.

The group is led by Mr. Moshe Arens, the chairman of the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee and a prominent hawk. He is tipped as the next ambassador to the United States when Mr. Ephraim Eylon returns to Israel at the end of the year.

The group is equally divided between the ruling Likud Party and the opposition Labour Party. They will see Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and other senior members of the Administration as well as leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties and the press.

The decision to send the delegation was announced by Mr. Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, 10 days ago after he had expressed concern over the interest which the Reagan Administration appeared to be showing in aspects of the Saudi eight-point peace plan. Mr. Begin said the Saudi plan was a recipe for Israel's liquidation.

The visit coincides with a continuation of the talks between the Administration and diplomats from Britain, France, the Netherlands and Italy over European participation in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

The Europeans have indicated their wish to take part in the force when it is deployed next April but they want to avoid an open commitment to the Camp David accords which are rejected by all Arab states except Egypt. The Europeans want to pursue their own peace initiative which was launched last year in Venice and which would involve the eventual inclusion of the Palestinians in the peace process.

The United States and the four European governments are trying to find a formula which would permit their participation without jeopardizing the European initiative. A formal announcement of European participation has been delayed several times because of the difficulty in finding a formula acceptable to the Americans, the Israelis and the Arabs.

The different approaches to Middle East peace caused Mr. Haig to renege on the British last week in talks with Sir Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador. Britain currently holds the presidency of the EEC.

Mr. Douglas Hurd, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office responsible for Middle Eastern affairs, has unexpectedly postponed a visit to Washington which was intended to clear the air of differences on Middle East policy. (David Cross writes)

A Foreign Office spokesman said that the two-day visit had been put off at the last minute because of pressure of parliamentary business at Westminster.

The postponement came as a surprise to diplomatic observers who noted that the dates for this week's visit had been announced by the Foreign Office last Monday.

Because of the strained relations between London and Washington over Middle East peace plans, the delay prompted speculation that the British Government needed more time to prepare its case.

Reagan remarks 'regrettable'
[Jerusalem: Relations between Israel and the United States have come under new strain after the qualified approval given to the eight-point Saudi peace plan yesterday by President Reagan during his televised "White House" press conference. (Christopher Walker writes)]

Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, today said that the President's statement was regrettable. He added that Israel was maintaining contact with the American Administration.

[New York: The United Nations General Assembly, by a vote of 119-2 with 10 abstentions today, classed Israel's air attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor on June 7 as a serious threat to peaceful nuclear energy development. (AP reports)]

[Riyadh: The second summit of the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council has given Saudi Arabia the go-ahead to put its Middle East peace plan to the Arab summit in Fez, Morocco, on November 25, according to the conference final communiqué published here today. The summit appealed for an end to superpower meddling.

Tass attacks Reagan 'nuclear blackmail'

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 11

The Russians today called President Reagan's concept of a limited nuclear war dangerous and absurd, and said it reflected Washington's desire to use nuclear blackmail to achieve its foreign policy aims.

In a rejoinder to President Reagan's press conference yesterday, Tass repeated President Brezhnev's recent assertion that nuclear war could not be limited. If it broke out in Europe or elsewhere it would inevitably assume a worldwide character.

The agency said the American concept of a limited war stemmed from the "absurd assumption" that in the event of the United States making first use of nuclear weapons the Soviet Union would follow nuclear war scenarios worked out in Washington.

"Those who possibly hope to get rid of the nuclear powder keg while themselves sitting snugly aside, should not entertain any such illusions."

The agency said the Soviet and American positions were "diametrically opposite". The Soviet Union believed that any crossing of the nuclear threshold, be it a warning explosion or the use of minor nuclear weapons, was "extremely dangerous".

The Russians today dismissed American accusations that Soviet chemical agents have been used in South-East Asia and Afghanistan as "persistent, systematised nonsense", and accused the Reagan Administration of paranoia.

It described the hearings in the Senate foreign relations committee as a "low-standard, slanderous undertaking".

Warning shot is still Nato option

By David Cross

Although there is still some confusion over whether or not Nato would fire a nuclear "demonstration" shot to try to prevent the Soviet Union from occupying West Europe, Western military experts have no reason to doubt it remains a possibility.

No less an authority than Mr. Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, told reporters in Washington yesterday that the firing of a nuclear warning shot was a "Nato option plan".

Part of the confusion, according to defence experts, is the use of terminology like "plan", "strategy" or "concept". As Lord Carver, a former chief of the defence staff puts it: "The only people who have specific nuclear contingency plans with selected targets are the countries which own nuclear weapons like the United States and Britain."

Nato has "concerns" about how the allies generally would fight a land and air war in Europe under different circumstances.

Lord Carver confirms that the idea of a demonstrative on-off shot has been going the rounds in the alliance since the early 1960s. He personally believes the notion absurd because there would be no guarantee of an equally gentlemanly reaction from the Soviet Union. It could unleash a massive counter-strike and leave everyone, including the enemy, in a worse position than if it had not been fired in the first place, he says.

Many American defence experts are not keen on the idea either. Mr. Herbert Scoville, who served in senior defence and intelligence positions during four administrations, has told reporters he believes a warning shot would lead to an all-out nuclear war.

West urged to reciprocate Soviet curbs on foreigners

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Nov 11

The United States has asked Western governments to tighten regulations which restrict the movement of Soviet diplomats, journalists and businessmen in their countries.

The request has been made on the basis of the American policy of "restraint and reciprocity" in its dealings with the Soviet Union. The Administration is underlining the need to reciprocate the tough curbs placed on all foreigners, living and working in the Soviet Union.

Most western countries place some restrictions on the freedom of movement of Soviet citizens, but these are often

not fully enforced. Emphasising the need for reciprocity, Washington wants its European allies to be as rigorous in restricting the movement of Russians as they are in preventing foreigners from travelling outside Moscow and other main cities without prior approval.

Britain is strict in the way it controls the movement of Soviet officials, but other countries are more lenient, notably the Scandinavians. These are the countries which Washington is now trying to encourage to be more rigorous in enforcing their own regulations.

Advertisers of slimming products have to use self control.

Slimming is one of many areas in advertising which is carefully watched. And any advertisement for slimming products must comply with the rules on the right.

They are just some of the rules affecting slimming advertising and they appear in a book called the British Code of Advertising Practice. In it are many rules, not just affecting slimming.

They govern all advertisements which appear in the press, in direct mail, in print, on posters and cinema commercials.

The Code is used by the Advertising Standards Authority whose job it is to protect the public from unacceptable advertising.

It was set up and is financed by the advertising industry although it works entirely independently of it.

Amongst other things, the ASA responds to consumers' complaints and this briefly is the way the system works. Members of the public can write to us to complain about any advertisement they find unacceptable. If, after investigation,

Appendix C. Advertising for 'Slimming'	
Weight loss	2.1 The only way for a person to lose weight, other than temporarily, is by burning up the excess fat his body has stored. A diet is the only practicable self-treatment for achieving a reduction in this excess fat. Diet plans, and aids to dieting of the kinds dealt with herein, are therefore the only products which may be offered in advertisements as capable of effecting any loss in weight. Claims, whether direct or indirect, that weight loss can be achieved by any other means are not acceptable in advertisements addressed to the general public.
	2.2 Temporary weight loss can be achieved by the expulsion of water from the body. This may not be represented in advertisements as a method of slimming.
	2.3 Overweight in young people is sometimes associated with a defective action of the glands and it is therefore desirable that they should be advised either in the advertisement or on the pack to consult their doctors before embarking upon a slimming diet.
	2.4 Obesity is a condition requiring medical attention and treatment. No claims referring to obesity are admissible in advertisements directed to the general public see Appendix D.
	Diet plans
	2.5.1 Where a diet plan is advertised, the advertiser should be able to substantiate that his suggested diet(s) will provide adequate amounts of proteins, vitamins and minerals, and that the diet is capable of achieving the results claimed for it, when followed by the kind of person for whom it is intended.
	2.5.2 No claim, direct or indirect, should be made in any advertisement for a diet that it contains any ingredient which in itself has the property of hastening the process of weight loss. All foods have some calorie content and in a balanced diet it will be necessary to have foods with higher and lower calorie levels. There is no ground for supposing that any specific foods have particular properties which speed up the metabolic processes which cause excess fat to be 'burnt-up' and weight to be lost.
	2.5.3 Advertisements for 'crash' diets are unacceptable.
	Aids to dieting general
	2.6.1 Diet aids, such as foods, food substitutes, or appetite depressants, may not be advertised except in terms which make clear that they can only be effective when taken in conjunction with or as part of a calorie-controlled diet. Due prominence should be given therefore in all advertisements to the part played by the diet.
	2.6.2 The Labelling of Food Regulations 1970 require that, where a claim is made in an advertisement or on a label that any food is an aid to slimming, it must be substantiated, and a statement must be included that the food cannot aid slimming except as part of a diet in which the total intake of calories is controlled, whether by calorie counting, low carbohydrate/high protein or other means.
	2.6.3 Any diets whether on pack, in advertisements or otherwise provided in conjunction with diet aids, will be required to conform to the aforementioned advice on diet plans, and details of the diets proposed should therefore be enclosed, with appropriate substantiation, when the advertising is being submitted for clearance.
	2.6.4 Advertisements for diet aids should also conform to the advice already given as to the non-acceptability of certain claims for the individual effectiveness of specific foods or other diet ingredients.
	Foods
	2.7.1 Advertisements for foods offered as diet aids should make clear in what way they contribute to the diet, e.g. whether the particular food is lower in calories than its conventional equivalent on a weight for weight basis, or a slice for slice basis.
	2.7.2 Particular care should be taken to ensure that advertisements for formal substitutes do not imply that these products are effective if eaten in addition to normal meals rather than instead of them.
	Appetite depressants
	2.8.1 Advertisements for appetite depressants should make clear how they work and will only be regarded as acceptable when adequate evidence has been provided by advertisers that the product is safe and effective at the level of consumption suggested.
	2.8.2 Claims for the effect of appetite depressants should not be expressed in terms of food equivalent, e.g. equal to two eggs and ham.
	Weight loss products in general
	2.9 No 'weight loss' products should be advertised on the basis of claims such as <i>Eat as much as you like, Eat, eat, eat, Eat and get slim</i> or anything similar tending to remove due emphasis from the primary importance of maintaining a balanced calorie-controlled diet.

we find the advertisement contravenes the Code, we instruct the advertiser to amend or withdraw it.

If you would like to know more about the Code, or about us, or if you have any cause to complain about an advertisement,

wed like to hear from you. If an advertiser breaks one of the rules, we don't let him get off lightly.

The Advertising Standards Authority.
If an advertisement is wrong,
we're here to put it right.
ASA Ltd, Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN.

South Africans warned of forced sterilization

From Michael Hornby, Johannesburg, Nov 11

A stir has been caused here by a warning from a senior government official that compulsory sterilization and abortion might become necessary in the future to contain South Africa's population growth, especially among blacks, if family planning measures are not accepted voluntarily.

Failure to get the growth rate down would plunge the country into chaos and misery, Dr J. de Beer, director-general of the Department of Health and Welfare, said in evidence yesterday to the President's Council, an advisory body set up last year by the Government to make proposals on constitutional and other questions.

It had to be realized "that it is not easy to get the birth rate down other than by penalizing people and having sterilization and abortion both on demand and by command, as it already is in some countries", Dr de Beer told the committee.

"This, of course, is not an acceptable population policy for South Africa, but unless all the population groups accept family planning on a voluntary basis, future generations will have to take these other, less pleasant, compulsory measures", he said.

Family planning, he said, was not a white man's device to control black numbers, but a simple demographic necessity. Black poverty was caused by too few jobs, "and there are too few jobs because there are too many people".

Dr de Beer's remarks were none the less, primarily directed at the black population, which is growing much faster than other racial groups. Many blacks will undoubtedly see them as mainly reflecting the white minority's fear that its monopoly of political power could be threatened as the population imbalance gets worse.

The answer to that, Dr de Beer contended, was that unless the birth rate was curbed voluntarily "circumstances will deteriorate to such an extent that a lowering of fertility would in any case have to follow, whether by compulsory measures or from the state of by a rise in mortality and misery".

According to Dr de Beer, the maximum population South Africa could sustain without strain would be about 68 million, because of limited water supplies. "In demographic terms we are just around the corner from 68 million".

On the face of it this seems rather alarmist. The latest predictions estimate that the population of 27,319,580 will rise to 38,404,600 by the year 2000, and 47,304,870 by the year 2020. So Dr de Beer's "maximum" is still some way off. Moreover, water supplies could improve if joint plans to tap Lesotho's abundant resources are successful.

There is no doubt, however, that population trends are worrying for whites, implying that they would drop from 15.46 per cent of the population today to 13.2 per cent by the end of the century. By the year 2020 the black population is expected to rise from 19.5 million to about 37 million, increasing its share of the total from 71.3 per cent to 77.8 per cent.

The white birth-rate had declined to the point where the white population is barely reproducing itself, and the trend is towards zero growth in most industrialized countries. Blacks are, by contrast, growing by 1.6 per cent a year, the mixed-race Coloureds by 1.3 per cent, and Asians by 1.1 per cent.

Historically, immigration has added on average between 20,000 and 30,000 a year to the white population (after deducting emigrants).

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Fighting in Chad close to frontier

Ndjamena, Chad, Nov 11 — Fierce fighting broke out early today in eastern Chad near the frontier with Sudan, according to sources here.

The fighting centred on the towns of Iriba and Adre and involved the Armed Forces of the North (FAN) of Mr Hissène Habré, the rebel former defence minister, and troops of the Revolutionary Democratic Council of Mr Ayl Ahmed Agabach, the Foreign Minister.

It comes after two days of infiltration across the border by the FAN, the sources said. The number of troops involved and details of their weapons were not known.

Iriba, Adre and Guerdou were among the first towns to be evacuated by Libyan troops after Libya's decision on November 3 to pull out at the request of President Goukouni Oueddei. Mr Ayl's forces, which are generally considered pro-Libyan, took over control of the towns after the Libyans left.

No comment from the Government was available on the resumption of internal fighting. FAN was drawn out of Ndjamena at the beginning of this year after violent fighting when President Goukouni called on the Libyans for aid.

The Libyan news agency Jana, monitored in Paris, said all Libyan troops had withdrawn from Iriba and Guerdou and were no longer responsible for their defence.

However, the Zaïrean advance guard of the pan-African peacekeeping force for Chad has had to postpone its arrival at Ndjamena because the airport was blocked by withdrawing Libyans, a reliable source said today.

About 500 Zaïrean paratroopers were expected on board French military aircraft last Sunday, but 13 were reserved for their officers in the capital's two main hotels were still empty.

In the past 48 hours the Libyan withdrawal has speeded, with aircraft flying out night and day. Yesterday seven Libyan aircraft—two Ilyushin "76" two Hercules and three DC9s—were loading military equipment at the same time.

Mr Kassir Delwa Kamoukoye, the Justice Minister, said today the arrival of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) force was still imminent. It depended only on the availability, possibilities and goodwill of each of the participating countries.

There was no point in assembling all the contingents at Lagos before dispatching them to Chad. "Chad is big enough to take them all", he said.

□ Lagos: Foreign Ministers of participating countries in the OAU will make final arrangements for the dispatch of the troops when they meet in Lagos tomorrow.

Zimbabwe's new army Civil war guerrilla factions united

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Nov 11

The military integration exercise in Zimbabwe has been completed, ending a programme which military authorities believe has few parallels in history.

The process, to fuse three hostile military forces into a single national army at the end of a civil war, ended as the last of the 40 battalions integrated under British trainers passed out last week. Meanwhile, senior officers were considering the next consolidation stage.

There have been a number of occasions since the formation of the first unit when faction fighting between Zips and Zambas guerrillas in a turbulent atmosphere could have wrecked the plan.

Given that background, and the events of February when three battalions disintegrated in bloody fighting in and around Bulawayo, there is an atmosphere of buoyant confidence in military headquarters here.

The British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT), working with senior officers of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu force and Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zips and members of the former Rhodesian security forces, integrated training in June last year.

By the end of the year, nine battalions had been formed and plans were in hand to speed up the operation. From January, three battalions a month were being formed and by the end of last month 40 battalions comprising about 44,000 former guerrillas had been through the so-called "super sausage machine".

Of the 40 units, three were dissolved after February's violence and the soldiers redeployed in new battalions. With another three former Rhodesian African Rifles battalions and three specialist units, the Zimbabwe national army has about 50,000 men and a total, including support units, of about 65,000. That is one of Africa's biggest armies.

□ Nairobi: A two-man team from the Commonwealth Secretariat is in Uganda to assess how a commonwealth military training team can help President Milton Obote to raise standards in his army (Cheney London writes).

A British Army sergeant is carrying out the same job in Uganda, and has been carrying out the same job in Uganda, and has been carrying out the same job in Uganda.

US and Tunisia discuss closer military links

From Godfrey Morrison, Tunis, Nov 11

The United States has pledged continuing support for the independence and security of Tunisia, whose main defence worry is its immediate eastern neighbour, Colonel Gaddafi's Libya.

A warm statement of support "for our very good friend, President Bourguiba, and our very good friends, the Tunisians" came from Mr Francis West, the United States Assistant Defence Secretary, after a one-hour meeting with the Tunisian leader yesterday.

The meeting came after two days of discussions here by the joint American-Tunisian Military Commission, whose establishment was announced last week.

Diplomatic sources said that the Commission discussed ways to deepen bilateral military cooperation and ways to increase the effectiveness of Tunisia's modest armed forces. Although Washington supplies arms to several Arab states, the only other Arab state with which military cooperation has been formalised to the extent of a joint commission is Jordan.

Washington agreed a \$50m (about £25m) military loan to Tunisia a couple of months ago and has offered to sell the Tunisians 54 M60 tanks and five F5 fighter jets. The sale was discussed at the talks, the sources said.

Tunisia shares American concern about Libya because in January last year a group of Libyan-trained Tunisians took over, and managed to hold for a couple of days, the southern town of Gafsa, the southern town of Gafsa, the southern town of Gafsa, the southern town of Gafsa.

Tunisia is one of America's closest friends in the Arab world even though it disapproves of the Camp David process. A few days ago Mr Ben Kaid Esselbi, the Foreign Minister, described relations with Washington as friendly and privileged.

Tunisian armed forces are lightly armed because the Government has always been reluctant to spend heavily on defence (in recent years defence has taken between 8 and 10 per cent of government spending) but the Gafsa incident has made the Tunisians a nasty shock and in recent months they have been casting round their other arms suppliers such as France, Italy and Austria with a view to modernizing their defence capability.

Castro says US is set for invasion

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 11

The Washington Post today published a letter in its correspondence column from President Fidel Castro in which the Cuban leader claimed that reports of Cuban troops in Nicaragua were part of a campaign of falsehood and lies by the United States Government. It was aimed at setting the stage for American intervention against Cuba, he alleged.

The two-page letter, which was received by the newspaper yesterday, denounced a report published last month by Mr Rowland Evans and Mr Robert Novak, the syndicated columnists, which stated that between 500 and 600 crack Cuban troops had been flown secretly to Nicaragua in September.

The report added that the troops were intended to help to set up a Marxist revolutionary government in eastern El Salvador, and suggested that the Cubans may have been behind the destruction last month of a strategic bridge over the Lempa river in eastern El Salvador.

In his letter President Castro described the report as "troubling and absolutely false".

The Cuban leader's letter reflects what appears to be a conviction in Cuba, fuelled by recent statements by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, that the United States is considering military action against Cuba and Nicaragua.

An "after press conference" yesterday, President Reagan said twice that Washington had no plans to intervene militarily in Central America.

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An "after press conference" yesterday, President Reagan said twice that Washington had no plans to intervene militarily in Central America.

STRIP SHOW STUDENTS EXPELLED

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Nov 11

Sixteen students have been expelled from South Africa's logical studies for attending a strip show. They were brought before a disciplinary committee at the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education in the southwest Transvaal after a party to celebrate the end of the academic year.

They had hired a stripper to entertain them in a factory premises well away from the university.

Five of the students have been expelled from the university with immediate effect. One of them was banned for life, the other four may apply for readmission over the next few years. The expulsion of the other 11 students was suspended on condition that they commit no further misdemeanours.

A number of other students were expected to appear before the disciplinary committee.

Antigua joins UN

New York — Antigua and Barbuda claimed its seat in the United Nations General Assembly yesterday to become the 157th member state. One of the smaller members, the Caribbean island group has a population of only 75,000.

Armistice Day unity honoured in France

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 11

Five thousand torch-bearing ex-servicemen marched slowly up the Champs Elysees to night to the Arc de Triomphe between two rows of national servicemen carrying red, white and blue lamps, and formed a guard of honour around President Mitterrand when he rekindled the Flame of Memory on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Among them were 41 former pilots of both world wars from 10 allied countries and from West Germany, who came especially to Paris for the occasion.

The President had expressed the wish that the ceremonies marking this year's Armistice Day should be especially impressive and colourful. They coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of the solemn burial under the Arc on January 28, 1921, of the unknown soldier, chosen from among three unidentified servicemen by M. Auguste Thié, who was present today.

Like the July 14 celebrations, M. Mitterrand was anxious that this year's Armistice Day should be an occasion to demonstrate in a spectacular fashion the close communion between the nation and its Army, in the spirit of the concepts of the French Revolution in 1793.

Among those attending were four British pilots, 11 Americans, including Colonel Charles Dolan, the last survivor of the volunteers of the famous Lafayette Squadron, eight Canadians, seven Frenchmen, five Hungarians, one Italian, and one South African.

Among the three West German pilots were two pilots of the squadron of von Richthofen, the German ace in the First World War, and a Messerschmitt 109 pilot who served on the Russian front in the second.

Each of 41 pilots had at least five "kills" to his credit, but some, like George Vaughan, the most decorated aviator of the American Air Force, Lord Balfour, the German Carl August von Schöneck and the Frenchman Louis Chardonne, have many more. Receptions were given for them at the British and American embassies, and the Air Ministry. The American group is being flown back to the United States by Concorde by courtesy of Air France.

In the morning, the president laid a wreath at the Arc de Triomphe in honour of the million and a half French dead of two world wars. A thousand troops from all three services were on parade, and massed on either side of the Unknown Soldier's Tomb were the national flags of 100 associations of French and foreign ex-servicemen, including the British and American Legion and those of 41 disbanded French regiments.

Schmidt in jobless talks

Bonn, Nov 11 — Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, was meeting West German union leaders, industrialists and bankers tonight to discuss rising unemployment and signs of government disarray over economic policy.

Herr Schmidt, under pressure from the unions and his Social Democratic Party to take action against unemployment, told Cabinet ministers today to stop making contradictory statements about the economy. Herr Kurt Becker, the chief government spokesman, said "the Chancellor complained about a 'state of self-advertisement' and government politicians."

Tonight's talks are expected to discuss trade union proposals for big job creation schemes to deal with the rising unemployment since 1972. It now stands at 2.35 million — 5.9 per cent of the workforce — and ministers have said it may go above two million next year. — Reuter.

India maintains stand on nuclear fuel

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Nov 10

The supply of nuclear fuel to India by the United States, an important irritant in the uncomfortable relationship between the two countries, may at last be settled in talks starting in Washington on Thursday.

There are signs that the United States, which has enriched uranium to India, will be ended. It seems that both sides would like to see it cancelled, but neither wishes to be seen taking the initiative. In any case, there are almost as many difficulties in ending it as in sustaining it.

The argument not only "sours" Indo-American relations, but also touches on the sensitive matter of India's pride in technological achievement and the determination to be self-sufficient, which strongly characterizes Indian attitudes.

In particular, India wants the self-respect and prestige, as well as the practical benefits, of a strong atomic energy programme.

It is a veteran nuclear nation, with 23,000 people working in 25 establishments. It showed a certain capability with its test explosion in the Rajasthan desert in 1974, but while initial progress was good and hopes high, the programme has slowed in the past few years.

India did not have the broad and strong industrial network vital to the growth of a nuclear industry. Energy fuelled production has fallen far short of targets. It had been predicted that by this year the capacity of atomic power stations would be 3,000 megawatts (MW), whereas in fact it is 640 MW. Work on 12 big schemes has fallen up to four years behind and costs have doubled.

In the next five years, however, the country hopes to have an extra 960 MW capacity in plants built and fuelled without foreign help, the 20-year aim is to have a nuclear capacity of 10,000 MW, about 10 per cent of the national requirement.

Atomic plants which will start operating during the next few years will help to make India self-sufficient in fuel. It is estimated that three power stations expected to go into production by 1985 will make about 8800 of plutonium a year.

India regards this kind of independence as fundamental. Its first nuclear power station, at Tarapur, 50 miles north of Bombay, is American-built and American fuelled.

In 1963 the United States agreed to ship uranium rods to Tarapur for 35 years. In the past four years, however, supplies have been delayed and withheld because of American displeasure with India's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to submit plants to international monitoring.

Moreover, American legislation of 1978 made the supply of fuel illegal.

India's 1980 application to what it regarded as an attempt by a powerful country to dictate to a developing one. It regarded the insistence on inspection as hypocritical in view of the refusal of countries like the United States to open their own plants.

India received its last shipments, totalling 38.6 tons, last year. But "sixty" after the United States Senate supported President Carter's decision to honour the agreement and to shore up the relationship.

The Americans say the agreement "gives them the right to Tarapur's spent fuel. India says that if the United States cancels the agreement it must drop this claim. It goes to the Washington talks looking for an American decision of the arrangement, suggesting that privatisation will count as annulment.

Whatever happens in Washington, India has already said firmly that Tarapur will belong to India and it does not need American permission to process it. The question of whether India should develop nuclear weapons with power station by-products remains open. India insists on making an independent decision.

Britain says 'no' to FAO budget proposals

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Nov 11

Mr Neil Marten, Minister for Overseas Development, bluntly told the conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization here today that the British Government could not support the agency's budget proposals.

Implicit in his speech were two criticisms. The first was that administrative expenses should be kept under better control. The increase in the budget proposed by Mr Edouard Saouma, the re-elected Lebanese director-general, is from the current £278m to £368m (£196m).

The Americans attacked the budget yesterday and the organization is facing the difficulty of a growing reluctance by the main contributing nations to accept rising budgetary demands. Mr Marten said: "Like some other members, we have looked with a common concern at the growth in budgets of United Nations specialised agencies."

"We do not think a case has been made for FAO's proposed rate of budget growth at the present time. We ask no more of FAO than we are trying to achieve in our own government administration in the United Kingdom."

His second implied objection was that the distribution of aid did not ensure most help to the most needy. "We must also ensure that the poorest people have a diet which meets their needs", he said. "There are indications of clear progress worldwide but stagnation in Africa. It is often a matter of training in food hygiene."

Last minute hitch hits the shuttle

From Nicholas Hirst, Cape Canaveral, Nov 11

Space shuttle scientists today were trying to solve a problem in the electronic system which relays flight information to ground control at Houston.

Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) emphasize that the problems which keep arising with the space shuttle Columbia are to be expected in a vehicle still in its research and development phase.



The reports of the extinction of the yellow-fronted bowerbird have been exaggerated. This is a sketch of the bird, which has been found in a New Guinea rain forest. The species was thought dead for 85 years. The name comes from the bower built by this male for courting.

There are hundreds of factories.

Thousands of workers.

And millions of £'s...

Moscow comes out fighting over submarine

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 11

The Soviet Union today vigorously denied that submarine No 137 which went aground near the Karlskrona Swedish naval base was engaged in espionage or carrying nuclear warheads.

In the first substantial comment on the affair, which has severely strained Soviet relations with Scandinavia, Tass today accused Washington of raising a hullabaloo over what it called a routine navigation error in order to discredit Soviet proposals for a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe.

A defiant commentary repeated the Soviet submarine captain's assertion that the ship's navigation instruments failed on a training trip. It said Western propaganda had seized on this incident to "foment anti-Soviet passions and military hysteria". Hostile Western reaction was disproportionate to the incident and clearly politically motivated, Tass said.

Why and who should need to dramatize such an ordinary, routine incident at sea, especially in a sea such as the Baltic with its complicated floor relief and coastline?

The answer, it went on, was the Reagan Administration. Washington was using the incident to dispel anti-American sentiment in Europe. Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, was conducting the orchestra of misinformation.

Tass said the movement to set up a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe and protests against the deployment of new Nato missiles were gaining ground in Western Europe, especially Scandinavia.

These protests were becoming more anti-American in character as it was the United States that wanted to deploy the new missiles.

Washington had, therefore, caused the incident to fuel the protests of those people demanding an end to the

aggressive tone of the commentary suggests that Moscow has no intention of apologising or admitting any breach of Swedish territorial sovereignty.

Stockholm: Sweden's largest military exercises for about 12 years in the far north of the country next March, a defence staff spokesman said today. (Reuters reports.) He said the manoeuvres, involving 20,000 men, had been planned for more than a year.

Washington: Mr Bush today ridiculed Moscow's claims that the Soviet Union was dedicated to peace and wanted the Kremlin over the Soviet submarine in Sweden. (AP reports.)



Streamlined to save fuel. The first Boeing 757, nearing completion in Renton, Washington state, after the wing-control surfaces, engines, recent fitting of its vertical and horizontal tail sections. The fuselage of the new airliner was joined with the wing three weeks ago and upper left is the 757 static-test airframe's mid-fuselage section, which will be taken to Boeing's flight centre in Seattle, where it will be joined to other fuselage sections for installation in a test rig.

Prisoners' rights defended

Manila, Nov 11.—An international Red Cross conference today condemned governments which engineer or condone the disappearance of political opponents.

Delegates from 121 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies said at least 72 nations are attending the twenty-fourth international conference of the Red Cross.

The resolution condemning disappearances was adopted by the Commission on Protection and Assistance. It was introduced by the Norwegian Red Cross and cosponsored by representatives from Colombia, Senegal, the Netherlands, Jordan, Cuba and Austria.

The resolution did not identify any of the governments resorting to the practice of official disappearance, but the Norwegian delegation circulated a private study quoting Amnesty International and the United Nations Human Rights Commission as saying up to 13,000 such disappearances had been reported by 1980 in at least 15 countries.

The study identified some of them as Afghanistan, Argentina, Chile, Cyprus, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Nicaragua and countries in southern Africa.

The resolution also asked the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross to take any appropriate action that might reveal the fate of these missing people. (A.P.)

Pollution kills Japanese fauna

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, Nov 11

Industrial pollution, a by-product of Japan's economic success, has, poisoned the atmosphere to such a degree during the past three decades that entire species of reptiles, fish, insects, birds and other forms of wildlife have disappeared from large areas of the country and are threatened with extinction, a government survey said today.

Doctors at Japan's National Cancer Centre claim that laboratory experiments on rats show that chemicals contained in diesel fumes are a source of cancer.

Officials in Japan's Environmental Agency who have studied the effects of pollution on wildlife during the past three years said they were shocked by the results of their survey. "We did not think things were this bad when we started the project",

a spokesman for the agency said. The study carried out with the help of 100,000 officials at a cost of £1.2m shows that many species of insects and birds face extinction or are extinct because rivers, ponds, streams, marshes and other sources of water have been polluted by industrial waste.

Although Japan has taken great strides in clearing up industrial pollution in recent years, the survey shows that the country's "economic miracle" will leave a permanent scar on its wildlife.

The survey said: "The numbers of dragonflies, fireflies, salamanders and other forms of insects, birds and animals living in ponds and waterways all over Japan have decreased drastically and in some cases they are extinct or face extinction."

The giant water bug, once found in ponds and waterways throughout Japan, has disappeared in nine prefectures and is nearly extinct. Scientists could identify only 133 of the 201 types of dragonfly which used to live in Japan before it began its postwar climb to emerge as the world's second leading industrial power in the 1980s.

Salamanders, a protected species because of a belief that a person who eats the reptile will enjoy a long life, are being destroyed in polluted waters. The numbers of many species of fresh-water fish, such as the Japanese bitterling and stickleback, have decreased drastically.

Mr Koichi Watanabe, an ornithologist, said that the population of water birds, such as duck and heron, had shrunk to a dangerous level.

French play down Peking love affair

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 11

M Michel Jobert, the French Foreign Trade Minister, who returned this morning from a visit to China, tried to play down the dispute over a romance between a French diplomat in Peking and a Chinese woman artist.

Miss Li Shuang was sentenced on Monday to two years in a reeducation camp for staying in M Emmanuel Bellefroid's room and for "incitement to debauchery".

M Jobert anxious to avoid repercussions on France's relations with China, M Louis Mermat, has urged the Chinese Government to release Miss Li Shuang. He hoped the matter could be settled before he led a delegation of the steering committee of the Assembly to Peking in January.

At Roissy airport this morning M Jobert said: "I am not bitter, but I am very sorry about it." He refused to regard the fact that the announcement of the sentence on Miss Li Shuang was timed to take place when he arrived in the Chinese capital. "If there is an unfortunate coincidence, we accept it as such."

The Chinese Embassy in Paris said in a statement that the case was not "the problem of a love affair between Li Shuang and Emmanuel Bellefroid, but a 'flagrant violation' of Chinese law".

"It is quite in order for China, as a sovereign state, to settle the case of Li Shuang in accordance with Chinese law, and has nothing to do with Sino-French relations. We are convinced that our French friends will be able to understand this decision, which is entirely a Chinese internal affair."

It is clear that they do not and that Paris will discreetly keep up pressure on the Chinese to pardon Miss Li Shuang.

Peking: China's disclosure that a guard at the French Embassy had married a Chinese woman is intended to show that Peking draws a line between ordinary love matches and the Bellefroid case. — AFP.

Hongkong looks to bright future after 1997

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong, Nov 11

Pronouncements of Peking and Hongkong officials have raised hopes for the Crown Colony's future after 1997, when the 99-year lease on the New Territories expires.

In Peking, Mr Liao Chengzhi, China's Director of Overseas Affairs, has given renewed assurances to visiting Chinese business leaders from Hongkong, about the colony's future "so long as Hongkong remains useful to China".

Mr Jimmy McGregor, the director of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, has predicted that Hongkong's status would continue into the next century "because China will reach an accommodation with Britain by 1985."

A recent government census has revealed that Hongkong's population of 5,110,000, while as dense as Tokyo's and New York's, is "much more affluent and better educated than 10 years ago".

Mr Fong Yun-wah, the vice-president of the Real Estate Developers' Association of Hongkong, said that Mr Liao, who is also Vice-Chairman of China's National People's Congress, had emphasized the importance which Peking placed on its Hongkong competitors' "personal and professional capabilities."

Mr Liao, however, had expressed concern over the weakness of the Hongkong dollar and the outflow of capital from the colony. He also gave Mr Fong a clear indication "that there was positively no formula at least not yet — for the solution of the historical problems of Hongkong and Macao".

Mr Fong added, however, that there are many cases of China's signing trade and investment agreements with Hongkong and foreign investors in China's special economic zones beyond 1997.

CORRECTION

In the table of chess moves in the fourteenth game of the world championship yesterday, the 26th move by Korchnoi (black) should have read Q-K7 not Q-K2. The 42nd move by black should have been K-R1 not K-KP.

Poland looks back on 1918

Communists join big independence rallies

Warsaw, Nov 11.—Poland today marked its 1918 independence Day in an unprecedented scale, with the Communists joining in celebrations of an event they used to shun.

Mr Henry Jablonski, the head of state, left the main ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw.

Poland's reemergence as an independent state in 1918, had been hitherto ignored by the Communists since they took power after the Second World War. The official news agency PAF said today's celebration was a gathering of all who sought national freedom of understanding.

But there were signs that this was still a distant goal. The free trade union movement Solidarity did not officially take part and labour and student unrest continued throughout the country.

Solidarity leaders in Warsaw planned to join in a huge rally tonight organized by a non-communist committee including dissidents, independent students and a group campaigning on behalf of what it calls political prisoners.

Mr Lech Walesa, the solidarity leader, continued his campaign to persuade workers to negotiate, instead of striking. He met strikers at the Sosnowiec coal mine and was due to travel later to the region of Zielona Gora; paralysed by a general strike for more than three weeks.

The Sosnowiec miners, who are staging a sit-in below ground, want the national television to broadcast a programme explaining how gas was thrown at a crowd of women, children and workers outside their colliery.

Mr Walesa told a rally of the miners that a solution of Poland's problems "by strength does not come into consideration, but it cannot be excluded".

Another sit-in, by farmers in Siedlice, east of Warsaw, appeared to be growing into a nationwide protest with delegates from Rural Solidarity

arriving there from all over Poland.

National leaders of Rural Solidarity last night gave their blessing to the Siedlice protesters whose 27 demands include constitutional guarantees for private farmers, religious instruction in state schools, their own national weekly publication and free office space for the union's branches.

Student strikes spread to at least five cities, and a strike by newspaper delivery men in the south-west stopped papers in four regions for the second day running.

The Communist Party Politburo said last night that the continued unrest was damaging the economy and Soviet-block alliances and added that a front of national accord could function properly only if there was national peace. The idea of such a front was floated during last week's meeting between Church, Communist Party and Solidarity leaders.

The Politburo called for further talks at all levels, but Solidarity said it was awaiting an official reply to its request for negotiations to begin in Warsaw on Friday. (Reuters.)

Minister's warning on refugees

Mr Josef Cyrtek, the Polish Foreign Minister, said in Vienna today at the end of a three day official visit that Poland would regard it as an unfriendly act if Poles who are now leaving the country and seek to settle abroad were recognized as political refugees. He said that Poland had no political refugees (David Blow writes from Vienna).

More than 17,000 Poles have come to Austria in the first nine months of this year and their undefined status is one of the factors complicating their eventual resettlement elsewhere. Mr Cyrtek would like to regularize their status through bilateral agreements.

BALLOON IN PACIFIC CROSSING

Portland, Oregon, Nov 11

A balloon and its four-man crew, which lifted off from Nagashima, Japan, drifted across the northern Pacific yesterday, the first day of its trans-Pacific flight, a spokesman for the balloons said.

"If things continue the way they are going, it should cross the Oregon coast near Astoria about 2am tomorrow," the spokesman added. But balloons cannot be steered — they go where the winds take them — so it is impossible to predict where they will end up.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, Miss Jane Woodward, the team spokesman said the balloon was about 1,050 miles from Japan by late yesterday afternoon. — AP.

WAR ENDS AFTER 172 YEARS

From Our Copenhagen Correspondent, Copenhagen, Nov 11

One hundred and seventy-two years of hostilities between Denmark and Huescar, a tiny southern Spanish village near Granada, were officially ended today.

A formal armistice between the two warring parties was signed at a ceremony in Huescar.

Whilst the rest of Spain has never been at war with Denmark, the council of Huescar, infuriated by Denmark's decision to side with France against Britain during the Napoleonic Wars, declared war on Denmark in 1809.

Denmark had been unaware until recently of the fact that a state of belligerency still existed.

Figueiredo returns to power

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo, Nov 11

Vice-President Antonio Aureliano Chaves, the first civilian to rule Brazil since 1964, is to hand power back to President João Figueiredo tomorrow, occupying the presidency for 51 days.

The President, handed over temporarily after suffering a heart attack.

A table has been broken, and in no longer seems inevitable that President Figueiredo will be succeeded by another four-star general when his six-year term ends in 1985.

Senhor Aureliano Chaves, behaving with considerable discretion, has made a profound mark in Brazil. He improved his chances for the succession and opened it up for other candidates from among state governors and elsewhere.

The calm of the period has allayed fears that civilian rule would be chaotic and shown that they figure in Brazil

are now prepared to try using constitutional methods for solving unexpected crises.

When an earlier military president was incapacitated, in 1969, power did not pass to his civilian vice-president but was retained by the military.

This time, although there were indications that a small group would have preferred it to be otherwise, most influential politicians seem to have considered that the constitution could be adhered to without risk.

The episode also brought fresh air to a political scene which was growing tense, as the unpopular government seeks ways of maintaining power through the Social Democratic party (PDS) which supports it. Elections are scheduled for next November.

During Senhor Aureliano Chaves's short tenure the party lost a vote in Congress which may make it

more difficult for the PDS to win as many state governorships as had been hoped.

Several government members voted with the Opposition or abstained, but the vote was accepted in a way which might not have been the case had General Figueiredo been in his presidential palace.

The period has also seen further weakening of the extremely centralized system of power which had already suffered a blow with the departure of the powerful General Golbery do Couto e Silva in July. Power now seems to be slipping from the small group of men, most of them generals, who have for several years met daily with the President.

General Figueiredo has said that more power will be given to his Vice-President in future.

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On the Origin of a Victorian sage

Charles Darwin
By Peter Brent

(Heinemann, £12.50)

Apart from Walter Scott, Charles Darwin must have been the nicest really great man about whose character we have sufficient evidence to judge. He was, one might almost say, systematically kind: gracious in personal relations even in the face of violent assaults, loving and benevolent to those around him, constantly aware of and resistant to cruelty. His response to his often vehement critics was without rancour, he was roused to abuse only by the ill-natured mendacity of Richard Owen, the none too successful fight manager of Samuel Wilberforce.

When Darwin's great ally and champion T. H. Huxley was going through a period of weakness and financial worry, Darwin got up a collection of £2,000 for him. Huxley was a fine and resourceful writer but his note of thanks must still have some value as testimony. "Have I said a word of appreciation for your own letters?" he wrote to Darwin. "I shall keep it for my children that their children may know what manner of man their father's friend was and why he loved him."

He was modest, immensely resolute, and hard-working. At times in his long trip in the Beagle he showed great physical bravery, and throughout the five years suffered irremediably from sea-sickness. Credit should be given too for remaining on excellent terms for nearly all the time with that fine seaman and somewhat rugged character, Captain Fitzroy. Despite

the harassments of illness and less frequently of insane public disapproval from most quarters, Darwin maintained a consistent level of gaiety and cheerfulness. That is something that tends to be disguised by the usual pictures which show him at a great age and heavily bearded.

His progressive family background may have disposed him to dissent. His institution of slavery, but his own temperament intensified the emotion. One of the first topics on which he came quite noisily to disagree with Captain Fitzroy, it remained a constant preoccupation. He felt strongly about child labour and opposed vivisection of a merely experimental kind, unjustified by a definite connection with the relief of human suffering. In an early statement of his fundamental idea — that man is a part of nature — this concern is present. "If we choose to let conjecture run wild then animals — our fellow creatures in pain, disease, death, suffering and famine, our slaves in the most laborious works, our companions in our amusements — they may partake from our origins in one common ancestor."

It is hardly surprising that Darwin's Butler stayed with them for 35 years.

Darwin died on April 6, 1882, and Peter Brent has got in early with the first centenary biography. His qualifications for the task are not obvious. He has had no scientific training, his previous writings have been on colourful figures such as Munro Park, T. E. Lawrence and Captain Scott. More directly worrying is a book on Hindu gurus, the fruit of an

acknowledged "interest in the mystical traditions of Asia". But apart from an occasional and not unreasonably reference to the visionary character of Darwin's belief in the all-inclusive unity of nature, contained in space and time and subject to a single scheme of laws, the mysterious East does not make its presence felt.

The style has some insecure moments as when mention is made of "exclusive Shrewsbury School", "the echelons of the aristocracy", "lectures that enthused and encouraged young men and lifestyle". Too much time is spent on laborious conjecture about Darwin's amorous interests and activities. Much is made out of some chatty letters from a Fanny Owen in his pre-Beagle days. There is a bit of neat deduction to a serious purpose, about a near-miss involvement with a Miss Horner soon after he got back. There is less than perfect dexterity in some speculations about the secrets of the matrimonial couch, a reference to "images of... Emma sexually available in the muffling darkness of that waiting Gower Street bedroom".

Darwin's life holds quite a lot of drama without the usual trappings of a novel. The voyage of the Beagle proved that with the excellent television series. There was also the dreadful moment in 1858, the year before *The Origin of the Species*, when Wallace's letter came, saying that he had just hit on the idea of natural selection through reading Malthus, in the same way that Darwin had 20 years earlier. Peter Brent does well by the Oxford meeting of the British

Association where Huxley gloriously demolished Bishop Wilberforce. Macmillan's Magazine said that "one lady fainted and had to be carried out".

His corrections of legend are more persuasive than his attempts to add to it. He points out that Darwin's relations with his father were, for the period, really rather good and also that Darwin was distinctly well off. He rejects the view that Darwin's long illness was Chagas's disease, picked up on his travels and not identified until 20 years after his death. One is reluctant to see this fine detergent of Freudian excess go, but a case is made.

The book gives a careful, faithful account of the development of Darwin's thinking and of the more concrete and immediately accessible aspects of his human and intellectual context. But this background is a bit insubstantial, as if got up specially for the occasion. Darwin is altogether too large a figure, both in the history of science and in the general intellectual life of his time, to be adequately handled so parochially. Given this lack of anchorage the book is too long and is made to seem longer by its ugly, overblown physical form.

Peter Brent's propensity for psychologizing pays off in his convincing linkage of Darwin's extreme good temper, self-disparaging modesty, country seclusion, even his illness as all facets of his determination to protect himself and his work from interference. But the full significance of that work is never made clear.

Anthony Quinton



The Pope's divisions

The Papacy in the Modern World
By J. Derek Holmes

(Burns & Oates, £9.95)

Despite the influence of strong personalities such as Mr. Benelli, and the revival of the consultative Synod of bishops, the Papacy remains obstinately autocratic in style and operation. Dr. Holmes' brisk canter through its recent history, therefore, concentrates fairly enough on the policies and personalities of the Popes themselves from Benedict XV to John Paul I. Brief and questioning refer-

ences to the present Pope round the book off as it began, in an atmosphere of external conflict and internal dispute. But the main theme of the book is the Pope's quest for peace and the defence of the integrity of the Catholic Church, and their implications for relationships between the Vatican and the power politics of secular states.

The narrative is crisp and readable, covering a remarkable amount of ground. When the author pauses for reflection on controversial issues, ranging from the condemnation of Action Française to Papal attitudes

towards the Nazi persecution of the Jews and the publication of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, his judgments are generally favourable but judicious. The note of apologetics is subdued. Venturing a tentative judgment on Pope John Paul II, for example, Dr. Holmes writes that this intelligent and attractive man is very familiar with many of the problems, particularly some of the political problems, facing the contemporary papacy, yet at the same time he seems curiously unsympathetic and even comparatively indifferent to many important issues that have been discussed and argued by Catholics over the last few decades.

This again emphasizes the importance of the personalities of the Popes in determining the active politics of the Papacy. And this makes it difficult to generalize about the evolution of the Papacy in modern times, although Dr. Holmes rightly claims that the moral prestige of the Papacy has risen at the time when the concept and understanding of infallibility has been qualified and modified.

George Bull

Travels with a passionate donkey

An English Journey
By Richard West

(Chatto & Windus, £8.50)

Travelling around England with an innocent eye and an opinionated noddle has been a rich source of the higher journalism from Defoe, Boswell, and Cobbett to Chesterton. Now Richard West has made his tour through the whole island of England to make this report, which is predictably sharp, lively, funny, and depressing.

Twenty years ago he started as a young reporter on *The Manchester Guardian*, becoming its Yorkshire correspondent. For most of the time since then he has been a foreign correspondent, reporting notably from Vietnam, black Africa, and Central Europe. So the great changes of the past 20 years in society, industry, townscape, and manners struck him more forcibly than those of us who stayed at home and became gradually accustomed to the tides of change that washed over us.

He started his journey in Manchester, partly because he is fond of the place, but also because he considers that it has endured to the full most of the follies besetting England — from city centre development, to local government reorganization, to being the seat of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Alas, poor country, as he worked his way clockwise around it he found that things had mostly gone to the dogs; or, if not to the dogs, to public relations officers, Colonel Seifert, teeming bureaucrats, and the sex industry.

Some of his cries of outrage have become popular wisdom. Not many of us now have a good word to say for tower blocks, or the range of proper books one can buy at W. H. Smith's, or juke-boxes and fruit machines in pubs. But West screamed earlier and louder than most of us. Sometimes, for instance when he attacks feminism as he attacks the movement of *The Guardian* to London lost the character of the newspaper as well as a lot of money, one might suspect him of doing it to annoy, because he knows it teases. But he means it.

Philip Howard

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The crack in the glass

M15 British Security Service Operations 1909-1945
By Nigel West

(Bodley Head, £7.95)

We have tended to see M15 through a glass darkly. But now, face to face? Not precisely. Mr West's produced another example of what I think of as homogenized history. There is no apparatus of notes and specific references to sources. The list of acknowledgements in the preface is more politely to anonymous individuals — so how can we assess, for example, the credibility of "former members" of the intelligence services to whom thanks are offered? (Rejected old dogs can still have poisoned teeth). The narrative

flows on, readably indeed, but its surface effect is that of a smooth concrete floor which looks fine until a small crack in the corner makes you doubt the tensile strength of the whole.

And such cracks are visible. The snatch by the SS of Major Stevens and Captain Best at Venlo in November 1939 — so disastrous for Europe — is well known. Mr West intensifies the sense of disaster by reproducing part of *Informationssteft Gross Britanien*, an intelligence summary printed in 1940 to supply, *inter alia*, a list for the Westapo of a successful invasion of England. But how can we assess, for example, the credibility of "former members" of the intelligence services to whom thanks are offered? (Rejected old dogs can still have poisoned teeth). The narrative

harsh theme, but while it deals largely with man's inhumanity, towards the end signs of the triumph of man's humanity creep in. To read the work is a sobering experience.

A gentler yet still telling moral is pointed in Gerald Durrell's fable, *The Mockery Bird*. Zenkai is a ravishing Indian Ocean parrot which, surviving, as Durrell says, "Arab, Portuguese, French, Dutch and British, is due for sacrifice to progress, namely carving out an airfield and flooding the valleys for a power-dam."

This joyous Eden, leisurely and lovingly described, is peopled entirely by stereotyped eccentrics, one single serpent, as Durrell says, "the best of all, the venerable Old Etonian ruler, Kingy, 'irretrievably as an avalanche'." All the right things happen for a fairy-tale, with some harmless fun over a mistaken mission to rescue a girl. The book is a lovely rule, BBC and press. (*The Times* man is categorized as "harmless".)

Western determination to introduce the miseries of industry is complicated by the discovery in the flood-area of two extinct species, the Mockery Bird, worshipped as a god, and its diet specialty the Ombu Tree. And the moral, gentle but serious... we are all mutually interdependent, and Nature is better than artificiality.

Gillian Bradshaw brings a powerful imagination to work on what must be like to live in a time when magic, and the forces of darkness, still contend against the doomed world of light. *Kingdom of Summer* (Byre, Methuen, £5.95), second volume of a trilogy, is yet another gift for Arthurian buffs — and which of us, secretly or otherwise, is not? Gwalchmai (Gawain), as recounted by his self-appointed young farmer-son, is on a mission for Arthur, and equally on a quest of his own for a young noblewoman he once betrayed.

There were Giants in the earth in those days, and the author makes a nice distinction between the attitudes of warrior-heroes, solid, resourceful farmers like Rhys and his forebears, and the few townsmen, mean and suspicious. Dialogue is adequately 18th-century and apart from a bit too much hot air and hot blue eyes, and a tendency to eat "finch", the author is one of those who enjoy to recapture the past.

The nature of friendship which comes suddenly into the lives of these diverse, lovely people is microscopically examined in Virginia Fagge's second novel, *Something Else* (Constable, £5.95). Amanda's purposeless existence, a void since her father's death, is filled almost magically by her discovery of an illegitimate brother, a run-down junk dealer in his late thirties. Between Gerald, whose initial motives are far from altruistic, his partner Denny, and Amanda, three secret and disparate associations evolve almost involuntarily, to a point beyond their control. If the denouement of *Something Else* has a touch of contrivance, the delicate nuances of this trio of uncomfortable relationships are here explored with a subtlety fulfilling the promise of the author's first book.

Finally, for sheer elegant understatement, witty in concept and concise in phrasing, we have six tales by J. I. M. Stewart, with varied settings and content and a neat turn for the unexpected as well as agreeable complexity in character and situation. From the very start of the title story in *The Bridge at Arre* (Collins, £5.95), when an elderly widow finds herself at the outset of an exclusive "Sins and Flowers" Greek tour in the company of her pet-bore ex-husband, and worse still, she doesn't even recognize her, we know ourselves in the hands of a master.

Mary Cosh

Crime

Shadow of a Doubt
By June Thomson

(Constable, £6.95)

The paperback covers scream with pulsating rocks promising frenzied excitement within, and within, indeed, often enough all sorts of frenzied things are frenziedly splashed on to paper. But you can write a book that is simply gripping, without any obvious excitement at all. If you are a suspense writer, a lesser light but mentionable in the same paragraph, you are June Thomson. Take a fancy clinic in the Essex country, have a taxi dinner party, then a disappearance, at last a murder. But even when murder happens don't go for the gruesome, just simply describe people, their outward actions, the thoughts of some of them, their setting and the wider countryside around them. And by doing it as accurately as this, it all becomes vivid and it holds you.

A couple of examples: A man with "huge, blunt fingers" rolls himself a cigarette and "the little oblong of tissue paper appeared as fragile as a moth's wing". Now you see it now you're there. And in the final confrontation, both the murderer and his intelligent, sensitive, "chiaro" victim, Finch sit down in armchairs opposite each other "leaving forward, so that the interview took on the air of an absorbing tête-à-tête". No histrionics, no leaping to suicide through a convenient window, but a scene that suddenly comes as vividly present to the mind as if it were on telly.

Underneath this vivid outward appearance there is a fine, deep understanding of what people are like, how they think, what makes them do as they do.

West's narrative is his considerable elaboration of the account given by Sir John Masterman in *The Double Cross System* of how we decided to "transmit" from Britain by agents (British or fictitious) who in practice were manipulated by M15. He has tracked, and talked to several of these shadowy figures. FREAK, GARBO, MITCHELL, ZIGAG etc. We must take his *brochure* on trust, but it is a most intriguing photographs vividly extend our awareness of what, in terms of the Second World War, was certainly the most outstanding and sophisticated operation carried out by M15. And in any case, like a second *Chinaman* Tricker, he has set the cat among M15's pigeons.

The interesting core of Mr West's narrative is his considerable elaboration of the account given by Sir John Masterman in *The Double Cross System* of how we decided to "transmit" from Britain by agents (British or fictitious) who in practice were manipulated by M15. He has tracked, and talked to several of these shadowy figures. FREAK, GARBO, MITCHELL, ZIGAG etc. We must take his *brochure* on trust, but it is a most intriguing photographs vividly extend our awareness of what, in terms of the Second World War, was certainly the most outstanding and sophisticated operation carried out by M15. And in any case, like a second *Chinaman* Tricker, he has set the cat among M15's pigeons.

Fields of Heather, by Alan Bennett (Constable, £5.95). Murder in Suffolk. From an idea by William Shakespeare, Superintendent Gentry's "right down to final metaphysical page."

The Ultimate Game, by Ralph Goodwin (New English Library, £6.95). A murder in a lush Connecticut suburb. In prose who done it. H. R. F. Keating

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THE ARTS

Cinema

International superbeast

If John Landis's career continues on its present course, he will pass into Hollywood legend as the director who never made a flop. At the age of 31 he has five films under his belt all of which have recouped their costs several times over. His smarmy comedy *National Lampoon's Animal House* is one of the top ten biggest grossing films of all time and even his first venture, *Schlock*, which he describes as "perhaps the most self-indulgent movie ever made," became a cult hit and is still going the rounds of the college circuit in America. With credentials like these, it seems extraordinary that he should have had to wait 11 years before being given the opportunity to make his latest film *An American Werewolf in London*, which opens here this week. The script, which he wrote himself, was turned down by every major studio and it was only after his last film, *The Blues Brothers*, that he was finally able to get ahead.

The film does represent something of a change of direction for Landis, all of his previous films have been comedies and, although there is plenty of "innocence" in *An American Werewolf in London*, it is primarily a horror film. That at least is how Landis sees it. But it is a problem of definition that bedevilled the project for so long. None of the studio executives whom Landis approached could make up his mind what heading the film should be classified under. In a profession obsessed with being able to stick convenient labels on everything, this was a major drawback. Landis, however, was unbowed in his determination to make the

film and left with some justification in view of his past record that he had got a nose for a winner. "It was revenge that kept me going," he admits cheerfully. "I wanted to get my own back on all those people who said it would never work."

Landis had the idea for the film when he was working in Yugoslavia as a student on *Kelly's Heroes*. "I was driving along one day when I saw this group of peasants conducting a funeral service. It turned out that the dead man had been a rapist and they were burying him at a crossroads in an unmarked grave so that his body wouldn't rise and cause any more havoc. The week before the United States had put a man on the moon and it seemed incredible to me that these people still believed in zombies."

"I thought it would be fun to take a ridiculous premise and treat it in an absolutely straightforward and realistic manner. I'd always been very fond of horror movies but I wanted to try and do something that would be both funny and frightening. There's always nervous laughter in a horror film but I didn't see why there should be real belly laughs mixed in with the scary bits."

"The next thing to do was to choose my monster. In the end I opted for werewolves because the myth of lycanthropy, the phenomenon of a man turning into a beast, crops up in every single country and culture. It's the only supernatural beast that's truly international. The film was set in England because it's the heart of gothic horror and that was the kind of atmosphere I was after."

"I started out being very sceptical about the whole idea of lycanthropy but, although I'm not a firm believer, I wouldn't dismiss it out of hand any more. Of course, a lot of what we think are legends from the dim and distant past were actually dreamed up by Hollywood scriptwriters. It's common knowledge that one of the ways of killing a vampire is by shooting him with silver bullets. But that only came about because Curt Siodmak, who happened to be working on a *Dracula* script, was listening to *The Lone Ranger* on the radio and reckoned that if silver bullets were good enough for *Dracula* as well."

"In one sense I love the way that movies have influenced our folklore to such an extent, but it does make it rather tricky to sort out fact from fiction, especially for someone like me who was virtually educated in the cinema."

Indeed Landis made up his mind when he was eight that he wanted to be a film director after his mother had taken him to see *The Seven Voyages of Sinbad*. When he left school he became a messenger boy for 20th Century Fox and since then he has never really looked back. One of the secrets of his success must be the seemingly boundless enthusiasm he brings to the job. There is also a broad comic streak in his character which shows clearly in his work. Although Landis is wary of any attempt to analyze his films, he will admit that narrow-mindedness is always one of his prime targets. So too is the automobile which he seems to take great pleasure in smashing up on screen. A hefty portion of the budget for *The*

First choose your monster... John Landis among the timber wolves



Blues Brothers must have gone towards the numerous cars that were summarily destroyed and the climax of *An American Werewolf in London* takes place amidst an enormous pile-up in Piccadilly Circus.

"I suppose it's a reaction against the way the car has taken over our lives. After all, we've covered a good deal of the earth's surface with strips of tarmac to drive the damn things on, and in America especially, they've become almost the biggest status symbol of them all. But I don't want to take myself or my films too seriously. They're basically entertainment and my main concern is in giving people a good time."

Now that he is no longer typecast as a comedy director Landis is eager to try his hand at all manner of subjects. His next film will be a contemporary drama set in

Los Angeles and after that he is due to go on to the remake of *Dick Tracy*. He has also got a long-cherished ambition to make a film of Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur*. Landis is a great admirer of Twain, and he certainly shares his relish for throwing rocks at the American establishment. The British establishment, however, seems to be more to his liking, and *An American Werewolf in London* closes with a title card congratulating the Prince and Princess of Wales on their marriage. "I thought it would be appropriate since I was over here making the film when the engagement was announced and I got caught up in all the excitement. I like to think of it as the ultimate wedding souvenir."

John Preston

Opera news

Serious loss to Italy

Rome. The French Government's decision to offer the post of general administrator of the Paris Opera from 1983 to Massimo Bogianckino revives fears that Italy is losing too many of the leading figures in its music to other countries. Bogianckino is undoubtedly the most gifted organizer at the moment in Italy's operatic life. He plans to move from Florence, where he is director of the Teatro Comunale, to Paris in August, and his departure will, in the words of one leading critic here, "inevitably leave a touch of bitterness in the heart of the Italian theatre."

There is ample reason to suppose so. The list of voluntary semi-exiles is disconcerting. Riccardo Muti, Claudio Abbado and Carlo Maria Giulini still conduct here but are no longer based in Italy. The measure of Bogianckino's ability can be judged by his success in bringing both Muti and Giulini regularly to Florence to make their very different contributions to the Maggio Musicale.

Bogianckino has said that he hopes that Muti will continue to open the Maggio Musicale even after he himself has moved to Paris. The work Bogianckino has done in Florence and before that at La Scala comes first to mind because that is more recent. The real measure of his capacity, however, was during the period between 1963 and 1968 when he was artistic director of the Rome Opera.

His artistic achievement in itself was high. Essentially he transformed the ailing opera house into a genuine centre of the city's cultural life. That may simply sound a conventional acknowledgment of

his success but it is far more, considering the difficulties of working in Rome, which, because of the nature of the city, are enormous.

Bogianckino drew heavily on artists living in or near Rome at that time. He brought in Giorgio de Chirico for instance to design *Orpheus* and Manzu for Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*. Eduardo de Filippo joined Giulini in staging *The Barber of Seville*. Lorin Maazel was here then and conducted for him; Serafin conducted his last performance in the opera house.

The point in reviving that period in Bogianckino's career is simply to show that his skill in refurbishing forgotten standards, or introducing new ones, remains his strength and was most dramatically revealed in the artistically searing atmosphere of Rome.

The attraction of Paris is clear. If the advent of Mitterrand means something in cultural terms it is the renewal and the search for the highest talents able to provide a new intellectual vitality. Bogianckino has studied in Paris and is at home in French cultural life. When his ambition was still to be a pianist, he studied in France under Cortot.

The Italian public must share that Blake-like "touch of bitterness in the heart" at the thought that the man who used to use a powerful gift for renewal has to be sought outside Italy. Not least among Bogianckino's achievements is that he is comfortably able to combine successes on the operatic stage with a highly progressive view of life.

Peter Nichols

Welsh 'Fidelio' in London

Welsh National Opera are bringing four works, including their controversial production of *Fidelio*, to London next April for their third annual London festival sponsored by Amoco, at the Dominion Theatre.

On April 5 and 10 they present Verdi's *La forza del destino* in a new production by Joachim Herz, conducted by Richard Armstrong. The cast includes Elizabeth Vaughan, Claire Powell, Moises Parker and Norman Phillips.

Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* will be performed on April 6. The production, which opens in Cardiff on February 23, will be staged by Rudolph Noe and conducted by the Russian Mark Ermler. This is the first time that the work of Rudolph Noe, one of West Germany's leading theatre directors, will have been seen in

Britain. The opera will be sung in an English translation by Tony Harrison and the cast is led by Helen Field, Warren Ellisworth and Derek Hammond Stroud.

Bellini's *I puritani* will be sung in Italian on April 7, the first staging in London of the opera since the Covent Garden production in 1964. The new production, opening in Cardiff on March 10, is by Andrei Serbati. It is conducted by Julian Smith, and the cast includes Suzanne Murphy and Dennis O'Neal.

The fourth opera to be performed, on April 8, is Beethoven's *Fidelio* in Harry Kupfer's production which opened in September and was shown last month on BBC2. Richard Armstrong conducts the performance, with Anne Evans as Leonora and Dennis Bailey as Florestan.

Christopher Warman

Opera review

Brecht weakened

The Seven Deadly Sins/Les Mamelles de Tiresias

Coliseum

Having divorced their partners in earlier double bills, both highly unsuitable matches, it may be that *The Seven Deadly Sins* and *Les Mamelles de Tiresias* will make a better go of it in association with each other. That they have a certain amount in common is evident. *Les Mamelles* is enough to sustain a story evening, prolonged only by the inordinate length of the interval between them, remains to be seen. What must be regretted is that the almost clinical presentation of Brecht and Weill's parable as a blunt case-history has been weakened this time round in the English National Opera repertoire. Partly this is due to the dancing Anna (Jenny Weston) having choreography which lacks the sharply pointed character of Richard Alton's original, though it follows similar outlines, and partly to the incarnation of the singing Anna in the adonoid tones of Mari Webb, who on Tuesday sang every number in the same vocally featureless manner.

Otherwise Lionel Friend's conducting keeps the music moving resolutely rather than incisively through what always seems to me a muddled-headed allegory. The male voice family quartet, growing rich on their daughter's sorrow to life, was better than before in such passages as the gloomy scene, and Dennis Wicks relished his drag role as the formidable "mother" among them. I am glad that Hugh Halliday, as producer in charge as well as choreographer, kept the vivid tableau of

the worn-out dancing Anna prostrate in mute accusation at the final curtain.

Les Mamelles de Tiresias, retaining more properties in its French title for an English-language performance than do most of its characters, might almost be a parody of Brecht, were it not for the fact that the play by Apollinaire from which it is derived was written a generation earlier. And it is worth noting that it was in his introduction to that play that the author coined the word "surrealism" which precisely defines the moribund musical comedy that Poulenc made of it.

Its humour is of the kind that would have been called "gallic" in the days before de Gaulle, though fortunately the wit and irony of Poulenc's invention preserves it in a kind of musical aspic. John Copley's production revived by David Ritch injects an anglicized flavour of pantomime farce. Happily there are still Robin Doo's designs, their assortment of images making ingenious references to various of Apollinaire's contemporaries. Picasso, Chirico and Dufy not least among them.

Alan Opie sang his theatre director's introduction in front of the drop curtain with due weight of purpose and Mariella Hill Smith is an admirable new Therese, with the requisite edge and sparkle in her singing for a role moulded entirely on paradox. Enile Belmont is again the put-upon husband, who becomes the businesslike childbearer of the second act, sharing assured vocal timing with Eric Shilling's prototype Cloutier in the local gendarmes. Hazel Africane conducted with lightness and zest.

Noël Goodwin

Theatre



Alan Howard: temperamental range

turns to his private group of cronies, all smiles, for their applause at his performance. Until we find him, mortified into self-knowledge in the Pomfret cell, he is invariably surrounded by an audience, with whom he takes the stingiest metaphor in the hands with gags, mimicry, word games and glamorous self-display. He is a prankster from the start, and one of the most fascinating aspects of the reading is that it shows a sarcastic bully nudging into a subtle irony.

The development of Mr. Suchet's Bolingbroke, in its austere way, is equally spectacular, and no less the revelation of an actor-diplomat, who knows how to play the irreproachable subject and when to turn brutally against him, as the palace hand in the abdication scene where Richard gets the better of him, leading him with the regalia like a husband and pushing him into the throne, so as to turn his triumph into a foolish humiliation.

Where the production has grown most is in its treatment

of the York family, and especially their son Aurmel. Lyricism always did have trouble in digesting the Yorks, and this time they are given their head in such a way that tragedy instantly collapses in their down-to-earth essence. As the new Duke of York, the death is pronounced, York (Tony Church) is jessily struggling to get a ring-off, and the conspiracy crisis is entirely undermined by a farcical squabble over his sceptre. Aurmel (Jonathan Hyde) emerges as never before as Richard's Judas, an obsequious hanger-on from the first scene, doing a quick volte-face when Bolingbroke comes to power, and then realising that he has been in the heavily emphasized line "loyal father of a treacherous son" of his own murky record. After which the final scene, played as a nightmare walk down Farnham's ramp, deepening anomalies in the block on the way and finally arriving at the spectre of Richard's corpse, follows with inexorable fatal logic.

Irving Wardle

Paperbacks

Auto da Fé is still in print by Picador. It is relevant to note that one of his more thought-provoking passages is on inflation and on the word "million". But for hyperinflation in Weimar Germany, which meant that "a million" became something ordinary, everyday, even valueless. Canetti thinks that even the Nazis would not have thought so amorally about the destruction of millions of Jews or Jews. To devalue words is also, Orwellianly, to devalue lives.

The 1973 original Penguin on my shelves cost 60p. This costs nearly five times as much. Not Weimar, but not a world of stable values, either.

Paul Barker

Violence

Rough Justice, the extraordinary truth about Charles Richardson and his gang, by Robert Parker (Fontana £1.95)

The career of Charles Richardson is put into a nutshell by one of his associates, recalling one of the beatings which the gang administered to some victims. "It was just one of those

To read is to argue

Crowds and Power, by Elias Canetti (Penguin, £2.95)

If you like Sir Thomas Browne's *Urn Burial* or Sir James Frazer's *The Golden Bough*, then you will like Canetti's erudite musings on the way politics and individuals and masses interact, often to produce violence and terror. That is his theme; but, like Browne or Frazer, he proceeds by amassing examples, and these are what persuade and give the book its attraction.

He begins with an acute account of how crowds "work": how individuals overcome their usual fear of being pushed about, and enjoy their immersion in a lack of individual responsibility. But by the time we reach the end, more than 500 pages later, Canetti fades us out on an "epilogue", rather than a conclusion.

This does not matter. Indeed, it is a book which I at least tend to read like a suggestion - not so much in its modern sense as in its

original one, of a storehouse. I dip into learned expositions of how an Indian medieval poet-fiddler built his courtiers approached the palace pastures of rotting corpses. Or I suddenly see how right it is to make the conductor of a symphony orchestra as the embodiment of a Führer.

But then I wonder how the standing position of the all-powerful conductor fits in with Canetti's exposition, in another chapter, of the all-powerful throne-like imagery of sitting, while others stand. To read Canetti is to argue with him.

Canetti's life makes him sound like someone invented by Borges (or, in this case, the Nobel prize committee, who have just awarded him the literature accolade for 1981). He has lived in more countries, it seems, than he has written books; and, born in Bulgaria of Spanish-Jewish parents, he began life speaking medieval Spanish. Certainly he shares Borges's love of learning, and his love of hiding generalisation behind detailed particularity. Few of the best sociologists have been paid-up academics, specifically working in that discipline. Canetti rubs in the point again.

Penguin have rushed out this reprint with commendable speed because of the Nobel Prize. (Canetti's novel,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE TIGER'S SMILE

The Opposition's decision to mobilize Mr Benn's oratorical skills during Tuesday's North Sea oil debate was always a gamble. His sights and his definition of the enemy are rarely in line with those of his senior colleagues. Not surprisingly and not for the first time he wreaked more damage upon his own side than upon the Government benches opposite.

His personal commitment to re-nationalize without compensation was directly contrary to the position agreed in Shadow Cabinet and left Labour's official spokesman, Mr Merlyn Rees, who apparently cleared his own speech with Mr Benn, intolerably embarrassed. It was also technically contrary to Party policy as determined by overwhelming vote at this year's Brighton Conference.

Remembering that Mr Benn's left-wing friends operate a hit list of Labour MPs who should be punished for offending the sanctity of Conference decisions, his behaviour carries a whiff of hubbub. However it should be stated in his defence that the Conference decision in question was even more ambiguous than usual: on a long composite motion the delegates' observations were apparently more to do with proposals for

the financial sector than with North Sea oil.

What is still unquestionable is that Mr Benn, when challenged from the Government bench, told the Commons and the nation that his position was that of the Labour Party, with no qualifications for the various shades and ambiguities within its policy-making process. In so doing he left his fellow spokesmen looking ridiculous, his leader humiliated, and himself looking less than trustworthy to conduct an office of public responsibility.

Equally serious is the bald question of principle at issue in the North Sea. We have already expressed our doubts about the wisdom of privatization there, agreeing with some of Mr Benn's better arguments. But there is no doubt about the Government's right — and duty — to sell at a fair price. Renationalization by a Labour Government without adequate compensation, let alone without any compensation at all, is simply wrong. It is the theft of legitimately held property. Mr Benn's proposal which may become unquestioned Labour policy once his Home Policy Committee has put its recommendations to the NEC and another Conference, amounts to such a theft.

Among its victims would be millions of trade unionists who are members of pension funds. Even earlier sufferers will be the unemployed, who are deprived of job opportunities as foreign investors are frightened away by these threats of confiscation.

But most immediately the problem rests with Mr Michael Foot. He personally promoted Mr Benn to his role in this debate. In answer to representations from moderate MPs about appeasement of the far Left, he has explained his strategy for taming Mr Benn by involving him in every aspect of the Party leadership. He has brought the tiger into the kitchen. Well, it has promptly eaten one of the cooks.

Mr Foot reacted firmly yesterday. He supported Mr Rees on the specific oil renationalization and then warned Mr Benn that without assurances of better behaviour he would not support him in the Shadow Cabinet elections. But on past evidence it is not clear what Mr Benn's assurances are worth or why Mr Foot should vote for him anyway. Unless Mr Foot recognizes his real enemies and more vigorously supports his true friends he himself may soon be on the tiger's menu.

Trotskyites in the Labour Party

From Mr Alan Williams, MP for Swansea, West (Labour)

Sir, The refusal even to investigate Trotskyite infiltration of the party means that time is running out for Labour. Important gains by the "moderates" at annual conference will be dissipated as the parliamentary party takes a strong stand in the current "shadow cabinet" elections.

Survival of the party is now the issue. MPs who have been demanding that they should have the freedom to use their personal judgement must now have the courage to do so. I suggest to my parliamentary colleagues that in casting their votes on this occasion they can help the survival of the party by distinguishing, not between left and right, but between those who favour keeping the Trotskyites within the party and those who do not.

The shadow cabinet should represent a cross-section of the policy views within the PLP. But we should not accept anyone on our parliamentary committee who would compromise with the erosive plotting of the anti-democratic Trotskyite infiltrators. They are carrying out a policy of sabotage, waiting to feed in the belly of the democratic Labour Party. They hope to cheat their way to power under Labour's banners.

Of course, as Michael Foot says, the Labour movement must unite to fight the next election. But it must not be a false, transient unity designed to deceive the electorate. Labour Party unity will only be acceptable to the voters if, underlying that unity, is an unshakable commitment to British parliamentary democracy. The Trotskyites not only lack this commitment to our system, they are actively dedicated to its downfall. They should be made to stand before the electorate in their own clothes. The PLP should massively reject anyone who would do them ours. Yours faithfully, ALAN WILLIAMS, House of Commons, November 10.

Ireland's future

From Mr Jonathan Moore

Sir, David Morrison's article, "Why Dr Fitzgerald's crusade will not unite Ireland" (November 9), shows a complete lack of understanding of the significance of Ireland removing articles 2 and 3 from the Constitution. Mr Morrison argues that by the South ceasing to lay claim to the Six Counties the IRA will have the "impetus" removed from their movement. This presumes that the IRA derive their legitimacy from the 1937 Constitution, which is simply not true. Their legitimacy derives from the 1916 proclamation, made on the steps of the Post Office in Dublin.

Article 2, the contents of the "Free State" Constitution will not change the attitude of the Provisionals one little bit. It will simply reinforce their conviction that the Dail is full of Quislings and not nationalists, and that they have fooled the Southern Irish people. No, the importance of the constitutional crusade lies not in its effect on the Republicans, but on its effect on the Unionists. For decades, many Unionist politicians have opposed dialogue with Southern politicians on the grounds of the South's constitutional claim to the North. This claim has been seen, with much justification, as highly offensive and indicative of Southern wishes to coerce and dominate Northern Protestants. It was impossible for any trust to exist in such an atmosphere.

Without such constitutional threats existing, a genuine dialogue between North and South can ensue. Since Mr Morrison is only too aware that one million Protestants cannot be forced into a united Ireland against their will (this is the real meaning of the constitutional guarantee) the Union is not being threatened by any talks.

Progress in the island of Ireland can only come through discussion. Garret Fitzgerald's initiative is a long overdue step in moving towards a united Ireland. He should be applauded for it. Yours faithfully, J. A. MOORE, University of York, Department of Politics, Heslington, York, November 9.

Tale of two Escorts

From Mr P. I. J. Sparrow

Sir, In his letter to you (October 27) Mr Herman Rebhan, General Secretary, The International Metalworkers' Federation, stated that "Ford production schedules are always a function of market demands", and that the answer to the low output of Escorts from Halewood "lay in the fact that Ford became politically sensitised to imports of Escorts from its low-wage Spanish plant coupled with a sharp increase in United Kingdom demands".

As a motor Ford dealer I write to you on this matter. Firstly, all Escorts for this country are produced at Halewood, with the exception of the Escort Ghia, which is made in Germany; and secondly, we in common with all other main Ford dealers have been desperately short of Escorts throughout the whole of 1981 and it is only now that production from Halewood is beginning to catch up with demand. Yours faithfully, PATRICK SPARROW, Managing Director, Knutsford Motors Ltd., Chester Way, Northwich, Cheshire.

Rational approaches to disarmament

From Mr E. P. Thompson

Sir, You had this to say in a recent editorial (October 2): "The huge accumulations of weaponry which the two [blocks] brandish at each other are wholly out of proportion to any genuine conflict of interests. There is no serious competition for essential resources, or for territory that is truly vital to the security of either and the ideological fires have divided on both sides. In strictly objective terms a reasonable degree of accommodation should be easily achievable."

You went on to add that this endemic state of conflict is, like others in history, "essentially irrational" — but none the less perilous for that. This is close to my own perception. The problem, then, is to insert some rationality into the relations between the two blocks before it is too late.

I, and CND, wish to commence with nuclear disarmament because, in our view, nuclear weapons are both the prime instruments and the prime symbols of this dangerous irrationality. When Professor Michael Howard asks us, in his interesting letter of November 3, whether we should not also campaign to maintain and to strengthen alternative non-nuclear defences, the answer cannot be a simple yes or no. For he is leaving aside a third alternative, which is that initiatives in nuclear disarmament should be taken together with vigorous political initiatives, might lead directly on to measures of conventional disarmament also.

If we start to remove the worst symbols of unreason, this might be a first step towards courses of rational negotiation in general. And this cannot be helped forward if we exaggerate the supposed imbalance of conventional forces in Europe, or are immobilised by worst-case hypotheses as to a possible Soviet threat. I am proposing a better hypothesis, and I am also arguing that we must bend every effort to bring that better case about. Our civilisation is now in a desperate state of crisis, and there is no way out of this predicament which may not entail some risk. If we do succeed in pulling together some of our nuclear emblems down, and if there is then no corresponding reduction (whether nuclear or conventional) on the other side, then Mr Howard will be entitled to put his question again, and in earnest.

He may receive different answers from members of the peace movement; some (like myself) may accept the course of Sweden or Yugoslavia, with strong, but truly defensive establishments; others may argue for passive measures of alternative defence. I am not overwhelmed with embarrassment that we might not agree on a common answer. Our opponents, the advocates of "deterrence" and of nuclear

weaponry, are now offering as many answers as they have heads.

It is also important (and we acknowledge this) that our first acts of disarmament should meet with a response from the other side. To clear the way for more honest and open East-West communication between all genuine disarmers is as important as is opposition to particular weapons. Councillor Tony Kerpel (October 30) doubts whether any such dialogue is possible.

I had drafted a reply to Mr Kerpel when Mr Howard's more weighty letter intervened. I can only say, in a brief space, that this dialogue despite all difficulties is taking shape. The findings of the Washington conference of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War have already been published as fully in the Soviet as in the Western press details in the *New Scientist* (October 3). President Ceausescu of Romania has directed an even-handed invitation to both the Soviet Union and the United States to remove nuclear weapons from Europe. At the recent congress of Solidarity the international spokesman, Mr Bogdan Lis, called explicitly for opposition to militarism, East and West.

Appeals are now being canvassed in both East and West Germany calling for measures to demilitarize both countries; one such appeal, drafted by Dr Robert Havemann, the East German physicist and civil rights supporter, takes the form of an open letter to Mr Brezhnev. Even our small *END Bulletin* is commencing published exchanges with Polish, Czech and Hungarian readers. Millions of East Germans have seen West German television coverage of the great Bonn rally on October 10, at which a multitude of banners were raised calling for a nuclear-free Europe, East and West. Such causes are infectious and can cross frontiers.

At the Hyde Park demonstration on October 24 I called on opinion in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe "to join hands in this common struggle — not only against Nato's modernization but also against their own." This was not a rhetorical flourish. It is our steady aim. The dialogue is difficult and must go through many channels: it is essential to survival. The obstacles which prevent it do not exist only over there, on the other side. They exist on this side also. One such obstacle is the kind of hostility towards any dialogue to which Mr Kerpel's letter gave expression. Yours faithfully, E. P. THOMPSON, Upper Wicks, Worcester, November 9.

Cable and Wireless shares sale

From Mr Frank McLaren

Sir, It is the prerogative of Parliament to decide, as trustee of the nation's assets, to acquire, to retain or dispose of publicly-owned companies as it sees fit. The Government is entitled to dispose of assets such as the recent 50 per cent sale of Cable and Wireless irrespective of whether its motives are economic or political.

The sale of Cable and Wireless shares has been acclaimed as a success and to the extent that the sale has been completed this is true, but there is one aspect of the sale which is nothing less than a national scandal. 133 million shares were disposed of at the price of £1.68 each, raising £224m. However, the market price appears to be settling at around 30p higher than the disposal price. The nation has been defrauded of £39m by the financial mismanagement of the Prime Minister and the Treasury, and this shortfall will have to be made up by the taxpayer.

There is no innumerable practical reason why the shares could not have been disposed of by tender like many gilt issues and the price paid would have been much closer to the real value of the shares.

According to *The Times* perhaps as many as 50 million shares were sold again on the first day of trading of the new issue, giving the City a one-day profit of around £15m. Is this a coincidence at a time when the Conservative Party, whose finances traditionally come from the City, is short of funds?

With future sales of public assets coming up our members of Parliament have a duty to ensure that the nation is not short-changed again. Yours faithfully, FRANK McLAREN, 13 Shelbury Close, Sidcup, Kent, November 8.

Pension tax

From Mr J. E. Moore

Sir, As an alternative to Professor Layard's "inflation tax", your correspondent, Peter Thurnham (October 22) suggests a tax on civil servants' inflation-proof pensions. Presumably this would be in addition to income tax and the main indirect taxes already paid by those in retirement. Mr Thurnham should realise that these pensions have been paid for with money which had a much higher value than it has now, and that to repay such contributions with present-day devalued currency would be dishonest, to say the least.

At the time that the superannuation payments were made they were quite adequate, from an actuarial point of view, to provide the pensions promised. Had not successive governments devalued the currency by continually increasing the money supply (that is, by printing it) there would be no need for index-linking.

The connection between currency inflation and price increases is no longer questioned. I see no reason, therefore, in the suggestion that index-linked pensions should be burdened with an additional tax. It is perhaps also fair to point out that, had successive governments met their public-spending requirements, in part by currency inflation, then Mr Thurnham's income tax would have been much higher all these years. Yours sincerely, J. E. MOORE, 10 Linchfield Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Finchley, NW11.

Nicaragua prisoners

From the Nicaraguan Ambassador

Sir, With reference to your editorial of November 6, "A debatable Cuban domino", it must be stressed that the applications of the law against the persons of specific actions against specific individuals who have violated the Economic and Social Emergency Law.

In no way can this be construed as an attack on the Supreme Council of Private Enterprise as an organization, nor against its normal activities, nor as an action against private enterprise in general, nor their right to function within the framework of the law, and even less as a departure from the overall approach to the mixed economy plan of the Nicaraguan Revolution.

What these sentences show, above all, is that the revolutionary laws of Nicaragua do not envisage helping certain capitalists, and scheming, nor for that matter, those communists who acting outside the limits of the revolutionary process. The law will be applied to those who sabotage production, whether it be at international level or at local level. The Government is responsible for seeing that the economy does not deteriorate any further. Yours truly, FRANCISCO ESCOTO, Embassy of Nicaragua, 8 Gloucester Road, SW7.

Point of precedence

From Mrs Judith Filkin-Hunt

Sir, Margaret Lane (November 7) should be reassured that the precedence of a first-born daughter is unlikely to be a problem for the Prince and Princess of Wales. Surely they must be proud to the secret that has enabled her Majesty the Queen, their Royal Highnesses Princess Anne and Princess Margaret, the Duchesses of Gloucester and Kent, Princess Alexandra and Princess Michael of Kent to produce a first-born son followed by a daughter. Yours faithfully, JUDITH FILKIN-HUNT, 70 Park Hall Road, N2.

HALF WAY TO THE LIVINGSTONE HOG

A few unnecessary rhetorical flourishes made the judgments of the Court of Appeal in the London fares case sound more political than legal. The court had three reasons for knocking down the new fares structure and the consequent supplementary rate. First it construed the "governing clause" of the Transport (London) Act of 1969, which gave the GLC its responsibility for the transport system in such a way as to exclude the power to order a large general cut in fares leading to an equally large operating deficit. The council's statutory duty is to "promote the provision of integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities and services for Greater London". Economic, according to the court, means businesslike or run on business lines; it does not embrace the deliberate diminution of already inadequate revenue. Second, the court found irregularities in the procedures used by the GLC to cause the London Transport Executive to make the fare cuts. Third, the court found the council in breach of its "fiduciary duty" to the ratepayers. This concept, analogous to the duty of a trustee, is well established in case law. It was applied in similar circumstances in 1954 when Birmingham Corporation's scheme of free bus travel for certain sorts of elderly passengers was successfully challenged, and found illegal, in the absence of any clear statutory authority "on the ground that, to put the matter bluntly, it would amount to the making of a gift or present in money's worth to a particular section of the local community at the expense of the general body of ratepayers." What was there found to be unlawful was soon made lawful by legislation.

The only things a local council may do are the things it is expressly authorized to do. It is a creature of statute with no inherent powers of its own. Lord Denning's disparaging remarks about party manifestos in local government, though tactless, are correct. A manifesto pledge, even if dignified by the election result as a mandate, is a nullity if the councillors lack the statutory authority to put it into effect. The question remains, and it is one the House of Lords will have to decide, has the Court of Appeal construed the 1969 Act too narrowly? Judges may not read Hansard but the rest of us may. When the Minister of Transport, then Mr Richard Marsh, moved the second reading of the Bill in the Commons he spoke of the role of the GLC in relation to the Transport Executive. He said the Bill gave the council the right to prescribe the policy lines to be followed and to take financial responsibility for its decisions.

This is very important, because if the council wishes the executive to do something that will cause it to fall short of its financial targets, it will itself have to take financial responsibility for it. The council might wish, for example, the executive to run a series of services at a loss for social or planning reasons. It might wish to keep fares down at a time when costs are rising and there is no scope for economies. It is free to do so. But it has to bear the cost.

That does not go the whole Livingstone hog, but it points in his direction. Another more general reason for placing a wider construction on the Act is that then in 1969, and even more today, the general subsidizing of fares was and is an orthodox policy option for urban transport systems. There is

much to be said for it, provided it is arranged in a manner best calculated to stimulate use of public transport and a way that does not stimulate or perpetuate operational inefficiency. The object of the subsidy is not, as the courts quaintly suppose, philanthropy; it is to encourage optimum use of public transport, create the effective demand to justify expansion and improvement of services, and relieve the road congestion caused by preference for the alternative of one's own car. A modern public transport Act deserves to be given the benefit of any doubt about its compatibility with modern ideas about running a public transport system.

If the House of Lords is unable to take a more indulgent view of the Act it will not be tragedy. There will be a clear and early need for new legislation, and that would provide an opportunity to reconsider the GLC's role. Its record of a decade's responsibility for London transport is not a success, irrespective of party control. The system has noticeably deteriorated. It has been a victim of party politics. It is hampered by separated responsibility for the railway commuter services. Rates levied on domestic and commercial properties are much too narrow a base for a policy of systematic subsidy. The principle of regional resources for regional subsidies is a good one, but when the only regional resources made available is the already overburdened rating system good principle turns into bad practice. This, like much else at present, points to the need for radical reform of the financial resources of local government and of its accountability to its electors.

No, the importance of the constitutional crusade lies not in its effect on the Republicans, but on its effect on the Unionists. For decades, many Unionist politicians have opposed dialogue with Southern politicians on the grounds of the South's constitutional claim to the North. This claim has been seen, with much justification, as highly offensive and indicative of Southern wishes to coerce and dominate Northern Protestants. It was impossible for any trust to exist in such an atmosphere.

Without such constitutional threats existing, a genuine dialogue between North and South can ensue. Since Mr Morrison is only too aware that one million Protestants cannot be forced into a united Ireland against their will (this is the real meaning of the constitutional guarantee) the Union is not being threatened by any talks.

Progress in the island of Ireland can only come through discussion. Garret Fitzgerald's initiative is a long overdue step in moving towards a united Ireland. He should be applauded for it. Yours faithfully, J. A. MOORE, University of York, Department of Politics, Heslington, York, November 9.

DR OWEN (WHOM GOD PRESERVE)

Eggs, flour, water and paint have long been the stuff of dialectics at Sussex University. The list of famous speakers who have been given the treatment would be longer than it is, and it is long enough, if it were not that the conduct of the students' union has discouraged acceptance of their invitations. The students, it must be fairly said, have acquired a reputation for impartiality: there are eggs and flour for all political hues. On Tuesday night it was the turn of David Owen who arrived to find the platform "occupied" and was imprudent enough to give an exposition on battlefield nuclear weapons which was so con-

clusively taxing on the Sussex intellects that it had to be answered by one tomato, then a second and a third. He advanced on the tomato thrower who ran away.

It will be argued that Dr Owen showed a serious misunderstanding of the constitutional convention at Sussex. The only possible precedent is the case of Dr Strabisimus (whom God preserve) of Utrecht who arrived to speak to a crowd and, after a few moments of oratory, proceeded to pelt the audience with rotten eggs. His normally reliable biographer J. B. Moton records that as he was led away he remarked, "Oh dear, I

seem to have got things the wrong way round."

But Dr Owen is a little different from Dr Strabisimus. He had arrived without eggs or tomatoes. His advance into the audience was merely to deprive the tomato thrower of his weapons, a unilateral disarmament measure of which the howling Left ought surely to approve. The real question is not the robustly eccentric behaviour of the good doctor of our own times, but the defence offered by the students' union and others. Only a minority, it is said, were throwing tomatoes. Why then, Dr Strabisimus might ponder, did the other 499 let them do it?

In such cases resignation is the only honourable course. By contrast, Dr Owen and his colleagues are now using their positions as MPs as platforms from which to assail the very parties that made possible their election to the House of Commons in the first place.

Social Democrats have spoken glowingly of a new beginning in British politics and they have been scathingly critical of the "old politics", however if they are to be consistent in their high-mindedness they should resign and recommit themselves for election under their new colours. Yours sincerely, DAVID MERVIN, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Warwick, Coventry.

Obligations and SDP

From Dr David Mervin

Sir, There is surely more than a little justification for Mr Foot's suggestion that Dr Owen and his SDP colleagues should resign from the House of Commons.

The bestowal of a party nomination carries with it both benefits and obligations. The most obvious benefit is that a party label is virtually indispensable to electoral success. Independent candidates are almost always doomed to failure from beginning, whereas major party candidates benefit enormously from the resources of their party. Parties possess money, expertise, organisational facilities, armies of volunteer workers and traditions of loyalty and support,

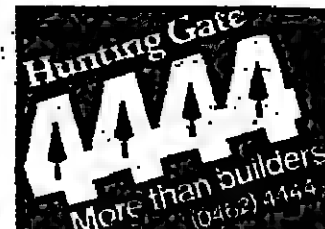
all of which are essential to victory at the polls.

In return for such formidable benefits those elected in the party's name incur implicit obligations. Rank-and-file party members tagging the streets on their behalf are entitled to expect that those lucky enough to obtain the party's nomination will, if elected, do their utmost to further the interests of the party and to advance the causes that the party holds dear.

No doubt circumstances may arise where MPs feel that, in all conscience, they cannot honour their obligations to party. They may grow apart from their party or they may come to feel that their party has grown apart from them. One can readily understand how this may happen, but surely

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EEC increases steel prices despite protest

By Peter Norman and Peter Hill

European steelmakers were told yesterday that they should raise their prices for normal steel by an average of 12.5 per cent at the beginning of next year despite strong pressure from steel-users to postpone any rise.

The timing of the announcement by Viscount Sturges, the European Economic Community's steel industry committee, surprised and angered leaders of Britain's steel industry. They are among a delegation due to discuss the price issue with Viscount Sturges today.

The proposal to raise prices has caused a wave of protest at the pace of steel increases and Mr John Safford, director of the British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council, said: "The nature of the announcement and its timing is typical of the disregard which the Commission has displayed towards the steel-using industries."

But the Commission believes that prices must rise to compensate for a 20 per cent increase in the steel industry's costs since the beginning of last year.

It has suggested that the January price increase, which would work out at 100 pence a tonne, should be followed by further rises, totalling 40 Deutsche marks a tonne more, during next year. It said

the additional increases should be carried through in at least two stages to protect customers from too abrupt a rise.

The decision is a blow to steel consumers who argue that they already suffer from reduced demand and will find it difficult to absorb this latest round of increases. They are worried about the impact on short-term financial performance and longer term competitiveness.

But the Commission pointed out that the price increases pushed through by the steel industry in July and November had done no more than compensate for the 5 per cent drop in steel prices when the industry went into deep recession in 1980, and had done nothing to offset the increased cost of coke, oil, electricity and iron ore.

The Commission also urged a rise of about 14 per cent in the price of flat steel and special steels at the beginning of January.

However, in outlining the increases as a catching up exercise, it said the steel industry should aim to offset cost increases coming at the beginning of next year by more rationalisation and by closing obsolete plants.

The steel-users welcomed this aspect of the Commission's decision.

Woolworth crackdown wipes out its loss

By Peter Wainwright

F. W. Woolworth, the store chain, is once again making money. Mr Geoffrey Rogers, its chairman, yesterday reported a £4.9m profit for the third quarter, wiping out the £1.48m loss of the previous six months.

In the nine months to October 31, the group made pretax profits of £3.4m against £7.1m. These are less than one half of the per cent of sales which, according to Rogers, was added tax to £709.2m, against £524.5m.

However, Woolworth was satisfied with this 13.5 per cent gain in turnover, which was faster than the average High Street sales increase, and ahead of inflation.

To this extent, Operation Crackdown—launched last February when the group kicked its Wembley Conference Centre to announce a year-long price cutting campaign to 1,200 suppliers, stockbrokers and the media—has succeeded.

The campaign cut prices on 800 lines when competitors were also slashing prices.

Initial advertising expenditure was £6m, indicating Woolworth's basic problem in recession. Its rivals, such as Marks & Spencer, with an unshakable reputation for quality and value, spend little on advertising.

The directors reported that the sales pattern in the nine months showed little change on the first half-year.

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Georgian dockland to get a £30m facelift

The decaying dockland at Gloucester, above, much of it built in the early nineteenth century, is to be redeveloped at a cost of £30m. Sir Frank Price, chairman of the British Waterways Board, who promised that conservation would be the keynote, said: "The scheme will add an attractive, dynamic dimension to Gloucester, allowing its town centre to expand."

The redevelopment will include a new stretch of water, creating an island on which warehousing will be converted into 135 flats and new houses will be grouped around the historic Mariner's Church. Other amenities will include facilities for leisure boating, a 70-bedroom hotel and a multi-storey car park with adjoining shops. Fourteen early nineteenth century

warehouses will be converted for other uses, and one is now being surveyed by the Government for possible conversion into a crown court.

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New joint car project agreed with Honda

By Edward Townsend

BL and Honda of Japan will today announce an extension of their collaboration deal which will result in the joint manufacture of a new car.

Agreement on the new model comes just over a month after the launch in Britain of the Triumph Acclaim, BL's version of the Honda Ballade which, in its first four weeks on sale, became the country's fifth best-selling car.

The new deal, to be announced in Tokyo by Mr Roy Horrocks, chairman of BL Cars, appears to involve much greater integration of the two companies' operations.

Although the Acclaim is assembled at BL's Cowley plant near Oxford, its design is little changed from the original Honda model. BL said yesterday that the latest stage in collaboration involved "the co-development of an important new car with BL and Honda as equal partners on design, development and manufacture."

It was unclear last night whether the new car would be manufactured in the United Kingdom or Japan, or in both countries simultaneously. BL also declined to say which, if any, of its current models would be replaced.

Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, has said previously that there was scope for further collaboration with Honda with both companies aware of the attractiveness of pooling development costs.

In a letter to *The Times* last month, Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, Honda's president, expressed his company's belief in international cooperation. "In some highly complex industries, the talents of a range of countries will be progressively harnessed to design and produce products which serve the environmental needs of our times. The prosperity of Japan, Britain and the West will be determined by how realistically we face the need for change."

BL executives have been negotiating with Honda ever since the conclusion of the Acclaim deal. The car, which is proving particularly successful in the important fleet market, has been regarded by the United Kingdom industry as a "copy gap" model before the introduction in 1983 of the LC 10 range of medium-sized cars.

With the LC 10 range, BL will cover most of the popular sectors of the car market apart from the sports car segment, which it abandoned following the demise of MG and the ending of the Triumph TR7 production.

TUC attacks oil sell-off plan

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Trade Union leaders yesterday joined the controversy over the Government's plans for selling off the oil production assets of the British National Oil Corporation and disposing of the oil activities of the British Gas Corporation.

Mr Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC, led the heading clash with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

Mr Murray underlined the TUC's strong opposition to the planned disposal which is likely to yield an estimated £2,000m at yesterday's meeting. He said the TUC would raise the issue again at a future meeting of the council.

Mr Murray attacked the Government for seeking to dispose

of the nation's wealth producing assets at a knockdown price which, he claimed, would enable the City to make a further £2,000m by selling shares in Cable and Wireless.

The TUC also criticised the Government's failure to secure the construction of an integrated gas gathering pipeline for the northern North Sea which, it claimed, would lead to the wasteful flaring of gas and deprive the petrochemical industry of valuable feed stock material.

The TUC's assault predictably drew little support from industrialists and Mr Lawson defended the Government's plans.

It was not the Government's intention, he said, to sell public assets at knockdown prices nor would the Government flout

any share issue to the public at a time when "market conditions were stupid".

The primary purpose, he continued, was not to relieve pressure on the public sector borrowing requirements, although a share issue would help—and Mr Lawson stressed that the Government was talking about a sale of the majority of the production interests of the BNOIC which presently represented 7 per cent of North Sea total production.

The state would continue to control the oil leasing activities of the Corporation and would also retain powers to control the flaring of gas, production levels and overall supervision of all activities.

Financial Editor, page 17

Industry urges early electricity review

By Our Industrial Editor

Britain's electricity industry is being encouraged to speed up bulk supply tariff changes to help energy intensive industries such as steel, chemical and paper and board.

The continuing wide differentials between prices paid by United Kingdom industrial electricity consumers compared with those charged in several other European countries were highlighted yesterday by the latest detailed survey produced by the energy task force set up by the National Economic Development Council.

It disclosed that bulk users of electricity were paying up to 28 per cent more than their French competitors and up to 25 per cent more than their rivals in Germany. Industries

in Italy also enjoy electricity price advantages.

The report was considered at yesterday's meeting of the NEDC and provided the Government with encouraging evidence that, with the exception of electricity, prices for gas and coal oil have moved much more into line with European prices.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, saw the report as demonstrating that British industry did not face any general energy price problem in competing with Europe, although he did acknowledge problems caused by electricity price disparities.

Industry leaders are anxious to become involved in the changes in the bulk supply tariff which is

effectively the wholesale price at which the Central Electricity Generating Board sells power to area boards.

At yesterday's meeting they called for a detailed study into the United Kingdom tariff structure and the reasons why the United Kingdom was not competitive.

The Electricity Council together with area boards and the CEGB were instructed several months ago to carry out a review of the bulk tariff.

Mr Lawson gave a hint yesterday to the NEDC that some improvements were likely but said: "It would be unrealistic to expect large price reductions given the costs the industry faces. But I hope it may be possible for something to be done."

Energy Editor, page 17

Japan study on trade surcharge

Tokyo, Nov. 11.—Japan's Finance Ministry is studying the possible introduction of a surcharge to correct his trade imbalances with the United States and Western Europe.

The plan may be submitted to a special cabinet council meeting, probably next Tuesday, to discuss measures to ease trade friction by reducing Japan's growing trade surplus.

The plan envisages a half-yearly survey of rises in exports by various Japanese industries over the past year. A 10 per cent surcharge would be imposed on industries with rates of increase exceeding the average.

A tentative estimate shows that exports of industries to which the surcharge may be applied totalled 9,000,000 yen (£21,000m) in the first half of this financial year, starting April, and are expected to reach 20,000,000 yen for the whole year.

On this basis, a 10 per cent surcharge will produce tax income of 2,000,000 yen in this financial year.

Other industries and industry oppose the plan.

Rising imports of Japanese light commercial vehicles will be the main issue at a meeting in London on November 24 between officials of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

Japan has asked Washington to investigate alleged discrimination against the Japanese computer maker, Fujitsu, which claims it was unfairly treated when it bid recently for a contract to supply a system linking Boston, New York City and Washington.—Reuter.

Reagan tax cut a 'Trojan horse'

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Nov. 11

A controversy has arisen here over remarks attributed to Mr David Stockman, the President's budget director, that the Reagan tax cut is actually a "Trojan horse" designed to help rich people, not the poor or middle classes.

Mr Stockman is quoted in the December issue of *Atlantic Monthly* magazine saying that the Reagan administration deliberately disguised the real intent of its tax programme in order to push it through an unsympathetic Congress.

President Reagan was asked at his news conference on Tuesday to comment on the article but he declined, saying he would have to check with Mr Stockman. He vigorously defended the tax cut, however.

Meanwhile Congressional Democrats, who have long condemned Mr Reagan's tax cut as a rich man's plan, seized upon the remarks and demanded an explanation.

Senator Ernest Hollings, the South Carolina Democrat who



Stockman: "help-rich scheme disguised"

has announced his intention to seek his party's Presidential nomination, described Mr Stockman as "the best off Broadway show we have ever had."

In the article, Mr Stockman is quoted as saying the administration "disguised" his "congressional tax cut as a new 'supply-side economic theory' which it promoted as the solu-

tion to everyone's problems. In fact, he said, the tax cut was a veiled version of traditional Republican "trickle-down" economics intended to aid the wealthiest citizens in the hope that the resulting benefits will move through the entire economy, triggering a business boom.

"It is kind of hard to sell trickle-down, so the supply-side formula was the only way to get our tax policy. Supply-side is trickle-down," Mr Stockman was quoted as saying.

After the Reagan news conference, the White House issued a formal statement denouncing the article as "wrong and grossly misleading."

The article quoted Mr Stockman as being convinced that the Reagan programme had failed.

"By early April, I began to realize the economic theory behind the President's programme was not working. While it was winning in the political arena, the plan was losing on Wall Street," Mr Stockman was reported as saying.

Stock Markets

FT Index 508.2 up 5.5
FT 100 62.66 up 0.32
FT All Share 305.48 up 1.52
Bergsman 16.362

Sterling

£ 1,879.0 up 1.20 cents
Index 89.2 up 0.1
New York \$1.8820

Dollar

Index 107.0 down 0.5
DM 2.2145 down 185 pts

Gold

\$412.75 down \$2.25
New York \$410.80

Money

3 mth sterling 15 1/2-15 3/4
3 mth Euro \$ 134-14
6 mth Euro \$ 131-14 1/2

PRICE CHANGES

Rises
Allied Low Prop 13p to 15p
British-Sugar 15p to 16p
Chubb 25p to 26p
De La Rue 12p to 13p
Electronics 10p to 11p
Gen Act 10p to 11p
GEC 16p to 17p
Lassmo 15p to 16p
Mercentile 15p to 16p
Mortin 15p to 16p
M&G Group 14p to 15p
Schroder 9p to 10p
Wolsey Hughes 30p to 32p

Falls
Buckley Miles 8p to 7p
Davies-Newman 5p to 4p
Kilnair 22p to 21p
Lethbridge 6p to 5p
Northgate Explorer 12p to 11p
Polly Fuel 12p to 11p
Ranger Oil 20p to 19p
RVC 7p to 6p
Sangers 5p to 4p
Seaford 4p to 3p
UK Invest 1p to 0.5p
Western Area 1p to 0.5p
W. Reed & Co 1p to 0.5p
Whitbread A 1p to 0.5p

Date set for Playboy sale

A £17m sale of Playboy's London casinos to Trident Television should be completed within three to four weeks, Mr Mark Huston, executive vice-president, said at the annual meeting in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Huston, Trident regarded the sale as highly optimistic. Trident is obliged to issue Class 1 circulars to its shareholders because of the size of the proposed purchase, and the company requires information in preparation for the annual accounts. Trident, whose financial year ends on September 30 generally does not produce its accounts until late January.

Public pension reform urged

Public sector pension schemes could be brought into the private sector as a way of easing the increasing burden of taxation placed on working members of the community by index-linked pension for civil servants, Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors, said at the National Association of Pension Funds autumn conference.

Civil servants should be required to buy into an approved private pension scheme, he said.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

EMS 'worth consideration'

Britain's participation in the joint mechanism of the European Monetary System deserves serious consideration, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said during the debate on the Government's economic policy.

Clarks plants may close

Clarks, the Somerset shoe company, has said that as many as 1,000 of its 9,000 workers could face redundancy.

Mr Lance Clark, the managing director, has drawn up a survival plan for the company, which he said could involve the closure of two of the company's factories. Clarks has 13 plants throughout the West Country and one in Dundalk in the Republic of Ireland.

Mr Clark said that the company was producing 20 per cent more shoes than it could sell. Because of the recession people were buying fewer shoes and choosing cheaper brands, mainly imported.

Cognac brandy sales dropped 16.5 per cent in Britain over the year compared with the French industry's trading year to the end of August. The number of holidays imported dropped to 14.6m.

Midland's new gold card

Midland Bank is to offer customers a new prestige travel and entertainment card from next spring. The gold MasterCard is aimed at businessmen and international travellers earning about £20,000 a year or more, and will have no spending limit. Cardholders will pay a £10 annual subscription and will receive an automatic £7,500 overdraft facility at preferential rates and special benefits at Thomas Cook offices.

No early tax system change

Radical changes in the tax system, such as self-assessment and local income tax could not be introduced before 1987, Sir Lawrence Aisley, chairman of the board of Inland Revenue told a Commons select committee yesterday.

The Inland Revenue is at present testing mainframe computers for full computerisation. PAYE and would soon begin to install computerized systems in certain offices.

Bull market forecast

"The incredible height of real interest rates, coupled with a reasonably favourable outlook for inflation, suggests very strongly that there will be a major bull market in bonds and a fall in interest rates in the United Kingdom," Mr Gordon Pepper, senior partner of W. Greenwell, the stockbrokers, told the Society of Investment Analysts yesterday.

But Mr Pepper said that what looked like a promising outlook domestically could yet be used by developments in the United States.

He suggested that the early years of the Reagan Administration could follow a pattern similar to that of the Thatcher Government.

If that were the case, the United Kingdom gilt edge market would tend to spurt and spurt.

TODAY

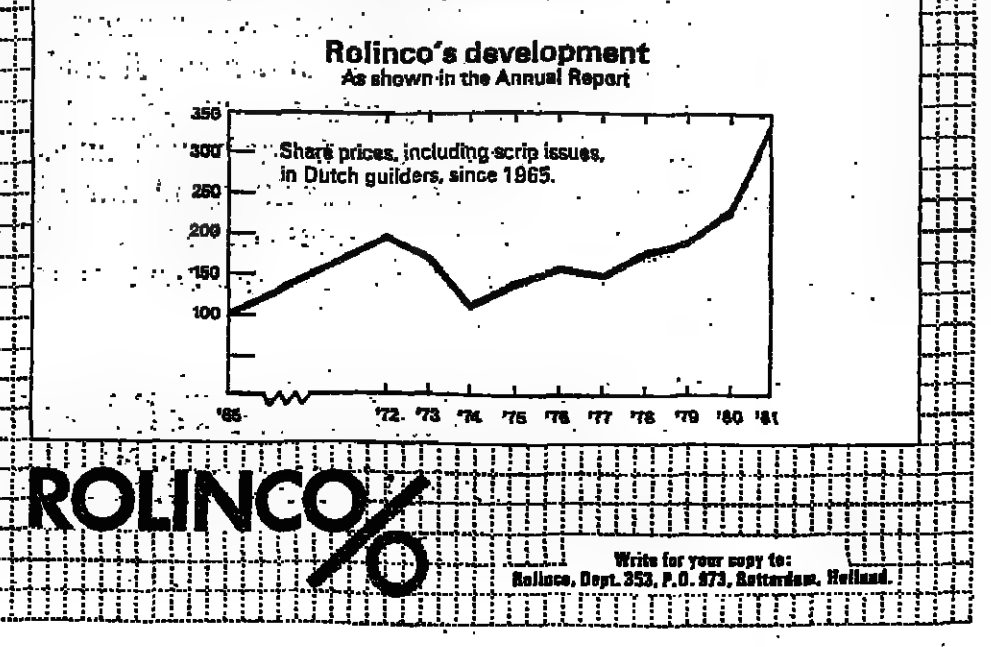
Seamen's pay talks resume. Index of industrial production (September provisional figures). Finished steel consumption and stock changes (third quarter provisional); usable steel production (October).

European League for Economic Cooperation conference opens in London to urge British membership of the European Monetary System.

Companies reporting their results today include: Aquascutum, British Commonwealth Shipping, East Midlands Allied Press, Stavros Industries (all half yearly); Ultramar (third quarter).

ROLINCO'S JUDGEMENT PAYS OFF AGAIN

Another good result confirms that Rolinco, the international investment trust, is an investment for all seasons. The Annual Report provides clear evidence of the Managers' judgement in selecting the right shares, in bad times as well as good. Rolinco backs technology-based industries, "one of the major growth industries of the Eighties" and energy, "a protective investment in politically safe areas". The investment strategy and the results obtained from it are fully set out in the Rolinco Annual Report, just published.



Write for your copy to: Rolinco, Dept. 252, P.O. 873, Rotterdam, Holland.



FINANCIAL NEWS

GEORGE H. SCHOLES & CO. LTD.

WYLEX WORKS, WYTHENSHAW, MANCHESTER M22 4RA

Manufacturers of Wylex Electrical Products



Main points from the circulated Statement of Mr. G. R. C. McDowell, for the year ended 30th June 1981.

	1981	1980
Trading Profit	£1,761,955	£2,479,921
Income from Associated Companies	£23,825	—
Interest on Short Term Deposits	—	£2,988
Profit before taxation	£1,785,780	£2,482,909
Taxation	£884,189	£321,288
Profit after taxation	£901,591	£1,561,621
Dividends per share (net)	16.52p	18.62p

* During the year we have continued to pursue export markets and in order to further penetrate the Far East, we have purchased an interest in PDL (Asia) Sdn. Bhd. from PDL Holdings Ltd. of Christchurch, New Zealand. PDL (Asia) Sdn. Bhd. has now changed its name to PDL-Wylex Sdn. Bhd. and will continue to manufacture a range of electrical accessories to British Standards in Malaysia. In addition, our full range of consumer units will be assembled in Malaysia next month and a range of earth leakage circuit breakers will be introduced by the Company before the end of 1981. This is a very exciting project which will enable us to gain a significant presence in the growing South East Asian Market.

* Another interesting development during the year was the formation of WSK (Electrical) Ltd. This Company is a joint venture with our Licenses Brown Boveri et Cie Ag. of Germany and a new 20,000 square feet factory commenced operation at Glenrothes in Fife, Scotland in July to manufacture a full range of current limiting miniature circuit breakers for use by both Companies, to be followed later in the year by a range of products in the low voltage technology range.

* Although last year has been one of the most difficult trading periods in the Company's history the good results for the second half enabled us to meet our forecasts. Our rationalisation and investment programme carried out during the last 12 months has strengthened the Company and we look forward to a greater penetration of home and export markets during the coming year.

Chloride slashes deficit

By Drew Johnston

A decline in pre-tax losses at Chloride Group from £5.1m last year to £2.7m this year has been described as steady progress by chairman Sir Alastair Pilkington.

The group operating profit of £6.5m for the six months ended September 30, 1981 has improved on the operating profit of £2.6m in the first half of 1980-81 and the £1.9m in the second half of that year.

No interim dividend has been declared on the ordinary shares as a result of the continuing losses though a dividend on the preference stock will be paid at a rate of 2.1 per cent.

Sir Alastair said yesterday that the group held or increased its market shares in all major areas, with the total sales volume of the rising slightly on the first half of last year.

Sales of car batteries were significantly higher in the United Kingdom, North America and overseas.

Unit sales of batteries in



Sir Alastair Pilkington, chairman of Chloride.

Europe and in the United Kingdom were badly hit by the recession and lower levels of industrial activity. The increase in total group turnover from £171.1m to £191.3m is largely

the result of exchange rate effects on non-United Kingdom business.

Sir Alastair went on to say that control of cash was still the company's major priority.

Chloride has reduced its shareholding in its South African subsidiary, Chloride Holdings SA, from 70 to just over 50 per cent. In Australia, Australian Mining and Smelting bought over 14.9 per cent of Chloride's ordinary shares and took up their rights for 14.9 per cent of the cumulative convertible preference shares.

Australian Mining is a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc. Chloride's newly developed lead-acid battery, which needs no maintenance throughout its useful life is now in production.

Sir Alastair said that with a reconstructed senior management team and a cost-cutting exercise carried out in all parts of the group, the company is well placed to take advantage of improved conditions.

CES diversifies

By Paul Malmgren

Combined English Stores Group, the specialist retailers, whose interests include the Harry Fenton menswear chain and Salisbury Handbags, has diversified into package camping holidays by acquiring the Shire-based Eurocamp Travel.

CES is paying an initial consideration of £2.9m, which will be adjusted to four times Eurocamp's pretax profits for this year, and increased or decreased by the difference between this year's pretax profits and those of the next three years.

Eurocamp has increased its

pretax profits from £85,000 at the end of 1978 to £603,000 at the end of last year. Profits for this year are expected to be around £800,000. Its net tangible assets at December 31 were £894,000.

CES issued unlisted redeemable secured loan stock to meet the initial consideration, which will carry interest at 2 per cent below base rate.

Mr Tony Hargrave, financial director of CES, said Eurocamp was a young company with growth potential and would provide CES with seasonal summer earnings.

Wolseley profits fall 49pc

A profits drop of 49 per cent from £15m to £8m has been reported by Wolseley-Hughes, central heating specialists, for the year to July 31. It also suffered a sales downturn from £193m to £179m.

But lower interest rates and the release of over £3m of deferred taxation provisions has swollen post tax earnings of the Worcester-based business group from £3.5m to £10.1m. As a result, the group has increased its dividend from 11.57p gross to 13.35p gross.

This represents a 10 per cent overall rise in dividends from 12.85p gross to 19.44p gross, and Mr Jeremy Lancaster, group chairman, said yesterday it was the board's intention to match, or beat, inflation whenever possible.

Strict cash control in the year led to a positive cash flow of £4.9m and the elimination of the group's overdraft. Also, by the year end, this policy of retrenchment reduced the level of gearing to just 2.4 per cent. Mr Lancaster said these results had been achieved despite the fall-off in business largely because the Wolseley-Hughes Merchants subsidiary responded quickly and effectively to the fall-off in demand.

The agricultural division was also badly hit by the recession, though record results were recorded by Farmrite, harrow manufacturers, despite a drop in sales volume.

According to Mr Lancaster, more hopeful performances from McCormick, power tools manufacturers, and Archibald, grassland equipment makers, had raised expectations of a marked improvement in the division's future performance.

'W' Ribbons cuts loss to £320,000

Pretax losses at 'W' Ribbons Holdings, manufacturers of webbing and cargo-handling equipment, have been cut from £1.2m to £320,000 for the twelve months to June 30.

Sales fell from £15.2m to £10.5m following the disposal of the German seat-belts division in March last year. Trading profit was £335,000, against a loss last year of £442,000. The company says this reflects a reduction in overheads and a rationalisation of production facilities. The figures include £77,000 relating to the closure of the Gwynedd plant and the transfer of the unit's activities to the main weaving plant in South Wales.

The loss per share was reduced from 21.6p to 5.82p. The board says borrowings are now considerably lower and the company expects to improve its views the future with increasing optimism. It is again passing a dividend.

Preussag raises its AMC stake to 85 pc

By Our Financial Staff

Preussag, the West German industrial holding company, yesterday disclosed that it had raised its stake in Amalgamated Metal Corporation, the international metals group, from 79.5 per cent to 85.33 per cent.

The shares were bought in the stock market last Friday, according to informed sources, after Preussag withdrew its formal offer early in the morning to buy out the remaining holders of some 20 per cent of AMC.

Under a scheme of arrangement, Preussag was offering to buy out the minority holdings of AMC at 400p cash a share. But with AMC's principal asset being its smelting in Malaysia, a Malaysian government agency, Permodalan Nasional, bid 550p cash for the shares.

On the stock market last Friday AMC's shares were, parti-

cularly active and moved between 560p and 613p. The Malaysians bought about 10 per cent of AMC and Preussag purchased a further 5 per cent before withdrawing. Yesterday the shares were steady at 555p.

Preussag is also taking a 25.1 per cent stake in the increased share capital of a West German company, C. Deilmann AG. The stake will be achieved via an exchange of shares and an increase in Deilmann's present DM 88m share capital and nominal purchases of Deilmann shares, providing the deal is agreed by the federal cartel office.

Deilmann's group turnover totalled DM 954m in 1980. The company is involved in the exploration and production of crude oil, while its subsidiaries are involved in uranium mining and specialist mining technology.

New Trust will invest in Australian companies

Lloyds Bank International is to make an offer for sale for a new trust, New Australia Investment Trust, of 5m ordinary shares for subscription at 100p each. The trust will concentrate on medium-sized Australian firms with growth potential, mainly those in the provision of services to the natural resources sector.

Clients of Vickers de Costa, the brokers to the issue, intend to apply for 3m shares; these applications will be met in full. The remaining 2m shares will be available for subscription.

Fosco Minsep

We would like to point out that although only 66.7 per cent of Fosco Minsep's shares offered by rights were taken up by shareholders, the rest were sold in the market, just above the offer price and, left with the underwriters, as suggested in Wednesday's paper.

Argyll-Lindood

At the proposed takeover of Lindood by Argyll Foods has been referred to the Monopolies Commission, the offer has now lapsed. Argyll's board is reviewing, with its advisers, the implications of the referral.

The total dividend is being raised from a scrip-adjusted 1.69p gross to 1.52p gross. Net assets per share are up from 113p to 167p. Gough is now wholly owned; at the time of acquisition it was making losses with substantial bank borrowings. It is now operating profitably and bank borrowings are considerably reduced.

Capezak's sale

Terms have been agreed for the sale of one of Capezak's wholly-owned offshoots, Concor Packaging, to a consortium which includes present and past management for £350,000; £200,000 was paid on completion on November 6, 1981, and the balance will be placed in monthly instalments over about 12 months.

The sale represents a discount on asset-value of £309,000 for which provision was made in Capezak's 1980-81 accounts. The sale proceeds will reduce the group's borrowings.

Highland Distilleries

Highland Distilleries' board does not expect any improvement in the new fillings position in 1982. In his annual statement, Mr John Macphail, the chairman, says that whilst the 1981 figures would be considered a satisfactory performance in the light of current conditions, sales of matured whisky should show a small improvement in volume, but margins will be under pressure.

Bellway holds payout despite fall

By Peter Wainwright

Bellway, which failed to merge with fellow Newcastle housebuilder William Leach to form what would have been our fourth largest residential development group last June, yesterday pleased the market with its figures for the year to last July. The shares rose 4p to 24p, but they are still well away from the 1981 peak of 103p.

Turnover rose from £25.3m to £26m in a difficult year, and a £500,000 rise in interest was partly to blame for the fall in pretax profits from £2.7m to £1.8m. Earnings a share duly plunged from 26.6p to 9.7p but dealers were pleased with the decision to maintain the gross dividend at 10.0p a share. Pretax profits, adjusted for inflation, were £744,000. The dividend absorbed £307,000.

The group reports that during the year more stress was placed on the first-time buyer market. This was reflected both in new home building and in the revamping of older property.

breakdown shows that first-half profits were £217,000 before tax. But the second half saw an upsurge to £156m. The year before, the figures were £1.8m and £1.5m respectively.

Allied Irish Banks slowed by high costs

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Half-year results from Allied Irish Banks show an increase in pretax profits from £123.9m to £129.5m in the period to September 30. During the previous six months to March 31, the group made £129m, before tax.

Allied Irish said that business had expanded over the period, although the outcome was somewhat disappointing. Increased costs and a higher bad-debt provision meant that profits did not grow in line with the increased activity and the highest level of capital employed. The balance sheet at the end of September showed total assets of £14,746m, compared with £14,492m six months earlier and £13,581m a year ago.

The bank was also affected by lending in the Republic of Ireland which limited the increase in lending and Allied Irish said that resources growth was not as buoyant as had been hoped. "In the present difficult economic climate, we do not anticipate any upswing in profits in the second half of the year," Allied Irish said.

In May, Allied Irish raised £122.5m through a rights issue to fund future growth and it

had benefited from this issue which was completed in June and the liquid position of the group was strong.

At the time of the rights issue, Allied Irish undertook to maintain the dividend on the enlarged share capital. The unchanged half-year dividend of 4.55 gross will absorb £1.7m compared with £1.7m a year ago. After an estimated six change of £1.85m, which includes provisions totalling £1.9m for the group's share of the recent special levy on banks, the profits for the last six months show a £1.15m reduction to £120.6m on the previous six months.

Fully diluted earnings, per share were 16.4p, compared with 19.5p in the previous half and 14.6p in the same period a year ago.

Under inflation-accounting, the current-cost profit before tax falls to £111.2m and the profit attributable to shareholders is reduced from £120.6m to £111.2m in the historical accounts to £123m in the current-cost accounts.

The balance sheet shows an increase in advances during the last six months to September 30, from £12,435m to £12,536m.

Associated British Foods

Half Year Progress Report

The Directors of Associated British Foods Limited announce unaudited profits for the six months ended 26th September 1981.

	Six months to 26 September 1981	Six months to 27 September 1980	Year to 28 March 1981
	£000	£000	£000
Sales to Customers	1,466,000	1,197,000	2,574,000
Trading Surplus	88,800	70,500	172,300
Less Depreciation	22,900	19,400	42,500
Group Profit	65,900	51,100	129,700
Less Interest Charges	8,000	6,900	14,800
Profit before Tax	57,900	44,200	114,900
Less United Kingdom Tax	6,700	6,500	15,100
Overseas Tax	12,000	7,100	17,400
Profit after Tax	39,200	30,600	82,400
Less Minority Interests	9,400	5,300	15,200
	29,800	25,300	67,200
Add Extraordinary Items	2,000	2,800	(100)
	31,800	28,100	67,100
Preference dividends	20	20	40
Ordinary dividends			
1st Interim	5,033	4,311	4,311
2nd Interim	—	—	9,346
Earnings per share before extraordinary items	8.29p	7.04p	18.70p

An interim dividend of 1.4p (1980-1.2p) will be paid on 8 March 1982 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 8 February 1982. Including tax credits this dividend is equivalent to 2.0p (1980-1.71p) per share.

The Chairman Mr. GARRY WESTON reports:

Worldwide sales for the half year have increased by £209 million or 17 per cent. In view of the wide fluctuations in the rates of exchange during the past six months, the results of our overseas subsidiaries have been converted at the rates ruling at the end of our last financial year. Australian and South African results have been converted at 1.92 dollars and 1.79 rands to the pound respectively.

Profits before tax at £57.9 million are £13.7 million or 31 per cent higher when compared with last year, whilst the earnings per ordinary share are 1.25p higher at 8.29p. The group's strong cash flow has enabled the level of capital expenditure to be further increased without additional borrowings with a modest further increase in interest charges being due to the higher interest rates overseas.

For the first time profits earned outside the United Kingdom represent more than 50 per cent of the group's total for the period. Overseas sales increased by 33 per cent and profits before tax by 65 per cent from £19.3 million to £31.9 million. Excellent growth both in sales and profits was reported by all overseas divisions.

In the United Kingdom more modest growth of 9 per cent on sales and 4 per cent on profits was achieved. Following the group's policy of accounting for reorganization and redundancy costs, nearly £2 million has been charged against the trading profits of the manufacturing divisions for the first half year, which has served to depress their results marginally to below profit figures achieved last year.

Our retail divisions have continued to report good growth in volume as well as in value of sales. This has contributed to further satisfactory improvement in the results of the group. After a good start we remain optimistic about the group results for the year, although we are fully aware of the competitive pressures in this country in particular on manufacturing and retail margins which will increasingly affect our results in the months ahead.

In looking forward to further growth in the second half of the year, we must note the exceptional achievements of our companies overseas during a similar period last year, and appreciate that the growth included a significant recovery in the trading results of one of our major overseas divisions. In the months ahead we will, therefore, be striving to improve on already high figures.

Current Cost Accounts for the six months to 26th September

	1981	1980
Profit before tax	£33 million	£24 million
Profit attributable to shareholders	£8 million	£5 million
Earnings per share	8.29p	7.04p

The accounts have been debited in respect of depreciation £20 million (£16 million) and cost of sales £16 million (£15 million). Credits have been made in respect of monetary working capital £5 million (£5 million) and a gearing adjustment of £6 million (£6 million). The revised minority interest is £6 million (£5 million) and the extraordinary items are nil (£1 million).

ZETTERS GROUP

	Year ended 31.3.81
Group turnover (before payments to winners and betting duty)	£ 28m
Profit before taxation	£1.63m
Profit after taxation	£698,266
Final dividend of 1.5p per share together with interim dividend paid in April and the unreserved profit of £6 million (£6 million). The revised minority interest is £6 million (£5 million) and the extraordinary items are nil (£1 million).	
Earnings per share	10.50p

Points from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. Paul Zetter C.B.E. The full year's profits were not materially different to the previous year. Nevertheless, we are again able to claim a record, albeit by the narrowest of margins.

Future Severe increased postal charges, increase in tax on Bingo and the effect of the unemployment on spending capacity, will bring about an inevitable reduction of profit of approximately 30% during the first six months of this financial year. However, I believe that the second half will show a much more favourable trend and will be in line with the same period last year.



Nine months' results

The results for the nine months ended 30th September, 1981, estimated and subject to audit, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1980, which are restated at 31st December 1980 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1980.

It must be emphasised that the results for the interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	9 Months to 30.9.81 Estimate £ Millions	9 Months to 30.9.80 Estimate £ Millions	Year 1980 Actual £ Millions
Net written premiums—General Business	789.1	655.2	876.0
Investment Income	117.3	86.9	119.3
Underwriting Results—General Business	(35.0)	(21.1)	(27.0)
Long Term Insurance Profits	2.8	2.0	3.0
	85.1	67.8	95.3
Loan Interest and Employee Profit Sharing Scheme	2.4	2.1	3.0
Profit before Tax and Minority Interests	82.7	65.7	92.3
Taxation	26.1	20.8	25.9
Minority Interests and Preference Dividend	1.0	0.8	1.1
Net Profit attributable to Shareholders	55.6	44.1	65.3
Earnings per Ordinary Share	33.8p	26.9p	39.8p
Principal exchange rates used in converting overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.81	\$2.39	\$2.39
Canada	\$2.18	\$2.85	\$2.85

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 20.4% and 35.0% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 6.7% and 18.4% respectively. The substantial deterioration of sterling over the period has had a material effect on pre-tax profits. If 31st December 1980 rates had still applied, these profits would have been £8m. less.

In the third quarter there was an underwriting profit of £3.1m in the United Kingdom as compared with a profit of £1.1m in the same period of 1980. The U.S.A. incurred a loss of £3.9m (1980, £0.3m loss) and major losses were reported also by Canada, Australia and Europe. Overall the third quarter loss was £11.8m (1980, £3.7m loss) and this was adversely affected by the significant decline in sterling.

For the nine months, net premiums written in the United Kingdom amounted to £321.6m (1980, £314.5m) and there was an underwriting profit of £5.4m (1980, £5.8m loss). There was a profit of £4.4m in the Motor account (1980, £3.5m loss) and the Industrial Fire account produced a very good result. The Home-owners account is not yet profitable but continues to improve.

For the nine months, net premiums written in the United States were \$501m (1980, \$476m) with an operating ratio of 104.86% as compared with 101.41% for the same period in 1980. On the United Kingdom accounting basis, there was an underwriting loss of £16.3m (1980, £4.7m loss). Although improving through the year, all major lines continue unprofitable and show deterioration as compared with 1980.

Elsewhere for the nine months, underwriting losses were incurred in all major territories, and experience in Europe, although improved on 1980, is now deteriorating.



General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd
World Headquarters, General Buildings, Perth, Scotland.

Salient Figures

	1981 £000	1980 £000	1979 £000	1978 £000	1977 £000
Turnover	488,200	439,380	381,031	304,223	268,267
Dividend per share	25.00p	15.40p	7.70p	5.304p	4.75p

Historical Cost Accounts

Profit before Tax*	51,035	34,167	31,516	25,576	20,468
Dividend cover	3.0 times	3.3 times	6.4 times	7.5 times	7.4 times
Net assets per share	510p	412p	248p	219p	184p

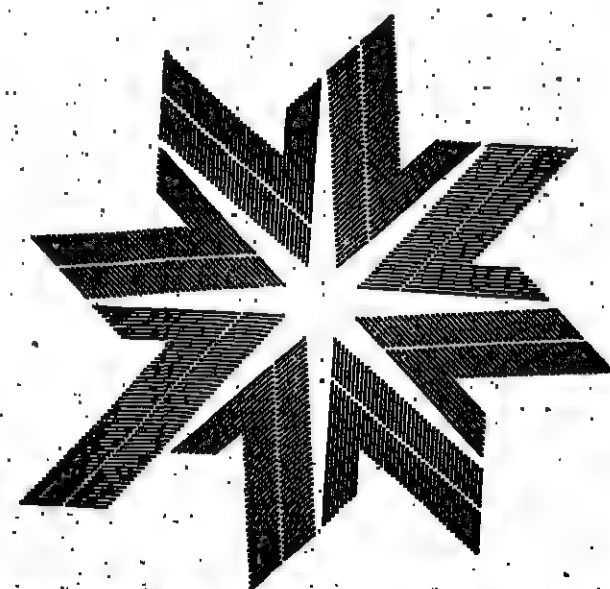
Current Cost Accounts

Profit before Tax*	37,898	18,890	16,005	14,446	13,416
Dividend cover	2.1 times	1.6 times	3.0 times	4.0 times	4.7 times
Net assets per share	716p	632p	572p	408p	358p

*Profit on ordinary activities and before extraordinary charge.

Massive capital expenditure now paying off - £51m profits

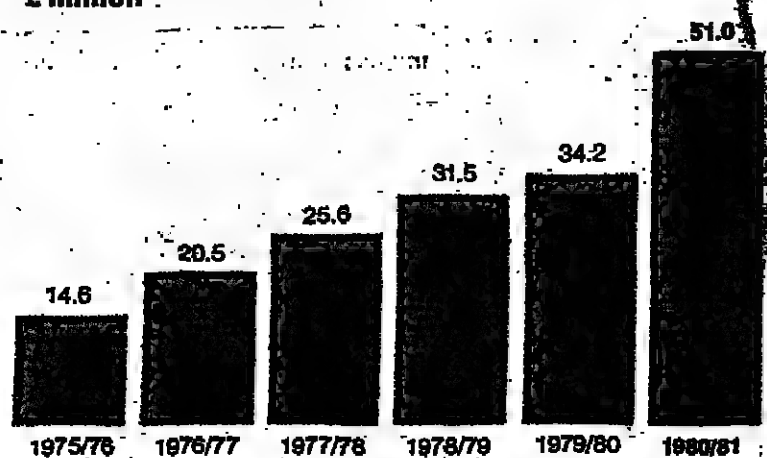
- **Further increases in efficiency and profitability flowing through from -**
high utilisation
of expanded and modernised assets
- **Record sales approach £500 million -**
Silver Spoon the biggest single grocery branded product
- **Profits rise to £51 million**
- **Dividend increases to 25.00p per share -**
A record of growth - the 17th successive year
of dividend increases
- **Balance sheet strong -**
with borrowings down to 15% of shareholders funds
and net assets up to 716p per share
- **Stability -**
from new production quotas for next 5 years
in a relatively recession-proof market



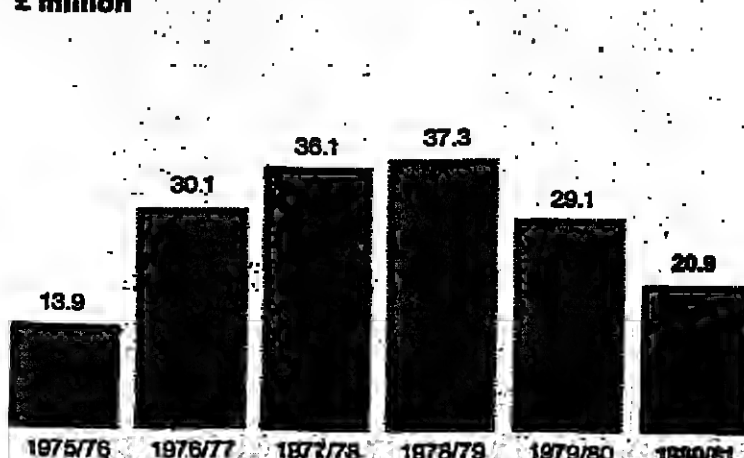
BRITISH SUGAR
CORPORATION LIMITED

THE RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Profit Before Tax
£ million



Capital Investment
£ million



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Please arrange to send me a copy of British Sugar's Annual
Report and Accounts, to be published on 11th December.

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Nov 9, Dealings End, Nov 20. \$ Contango Day, Nov 23 Settlement Day, Nov 30
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Golden Vow to complete a sparkling treble

By Michael Seely
Golden Vow landed a gamble

for his connections when beating Silver Shadow in the Mecca Bookmakers' Hurdle at Sandown two seasons ago. This bold front-runner has taken well to his new surroundings, and has won the first of only two races over fence, all Bangor-on-Dee and Stratford-on-Avon by 20 and 15 lengths, respectively. Golden Vow has been good, perfect in these two victories and has made a terrible impression on £5,000 Monday Night treble in the Winton Handicap at Sandown on Wednesday afternoon.

This talented young horse will be meeting sterner opposition than he has encountered hitherto. Golden Silver has already been

Appalocho also has the ability to make the grade. Roddy, a seven-year-old finished second to Tompkins at Lindehorst, and his conqueror certainly did not see this foal down when runner-up

However, "naturals" like Golden Vow are difficult to beat until they meet rivals of similar experience under testing conditions such as a trial for the 1000 yds. on the Somerset course. David Edsworth's British Crown can extend his sequence of victories to four in a row in the Remembrance Poppy Challenge Cup. Skelde, the Stratford, is the best bet should be Button Boy in the Warrnambool Trophy and Glen Berg in the Hawke's Bay Trophy. Button Boy was only beaten a head yesterday's Newbury winner, and Skelde is a Newbury favorite. Exeter, form which makes him the

automatic selection for this two-mile chase. And Glen Berg, trained by the invincible Mon of the winter game, Fuika Walwyn, strolled home by a wide margin on the same track, the same afternoon, and should have little difficulty in defying a 5lb penalty for that success.

an unusual accident—the horse was not backed either on or off the course with the Tote and all backers who held winning tickets on the race were given their stakes back. John Chapman, Chicago racing manager at Sedgefield, said: "This is a very rare occurrence. It must be only the third time in some 50 years that it has happened to us."

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1

Merchant (b-b fav), Ancient Arch
(35-1) 4th. 17 rac. NR: Lady Romulus.
PLACESPOT: E719-25.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: All en-
gagements (head): Polly's Sister, Clo-
ver, Mrs. Taylor, Red, Cressie, Vir-
ginia Hill, Pleasant, Joe, 51/2 mile W'n.
Salemville, Col and Run, Od Master,
Thurway, Chartered Course, Sam Car-
mady.

STATE OF COING officials: Win-
canton, good, Grandford, good. To-
morrow: Newcastle, good, Chatham,
good.

Edited by Peter Davalle

ITV/LONDON

World Tonight
at Election

Radio 2

2.00 Quartets by Haydn and R. W. Wood, String Quartet recital.
2.50 Duos for Flute and Piano.
Recital: Pawla Graci, Prokofiev.
3.30 St. German Radio Symphony Orchestra, Concert: Schoenberg, Webern, Beethoven.
4.55 News.
5.00 Melody for Pleasure with Jeremy Sievmann.
7.00 Halkin Conducts Debussy on records.
7.45 Under Milk Wood (S/O) A Play for voices by Dylan Thomas. Glynn Houston's first voice, as a troupe leader, as second voice.

9.30 Captain Cat, Nery Hughes as Polly Garter.
Muslo Ensemble. Recital:
Cruzell-quartet in D, Op. 7, for
flute and strings.†
9.55 Words (series) Talk by John
Wain (4).
10.00 Music in our Time — Luigi
Nono; records.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Beethoven — on records.†

Card: David Star Sound Extra

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ION VARIATIONS

bodyline, 6.30 Benson, 7.00 Take the High Road, 7.30 5.30 93 and the bear. 1.00 Communicators: Ken Loach. 1.00 Searchlight. 11.45 Late Call. 11.50 International Darts. 12.20 m Closedown.

CHANNEL

Channel Report: 6.30 What's On?
 Then. 8.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Benson.
 10.30-8.30 Great Race. 10.28 News.
 11.30 TV Eye. 11.00 Rugby: Devon
 and Cornwall vs Australia. 11.30 Talking
 Pictures. 12.00 Going Out. 12.25
 Closedown.

ATV

Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 A
 New Kind of Film. 1.20-1.30 News.
 1.45-5.45 Film: The Black Arrow
 (Ronald Douglas, Louis Hayward)
 (cassid swapped/bought released in 1948.
 6.30 News. 6.55 Crossroads. 6.30 ATV
 Sunday. 7.00 Take the Stage - New
 kind of variety show. 7.30-8.30

ULSTER.
 7.30 Thames escape. 1.20 pre-1800
 canals. 4.13 News. 4.15 Cartoon.
 5.20 Further adventures of Oliver Twist.
 5.50 Flying Kite. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads.
 6.00 Good evening Ulster. 6.50 Police
 7.00 x. 7.00 Take the stage. 7.30 Give us
 a chance, with Michael Aspel. 8.00-8.30
 8.30 Bedtime, followed by Closedown.

Classified Guide

Animals and Birds	26
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